

SENATE, No. 2471

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 11, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Brown

SYNOPSIS

Provides one-time financial assistance grant and one-time special needs grant to veterans or their surviving spouses for COVID-19 related events.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/25/2020)

1 **AN ACT** providing financial assistance grants to veterans or their
2 surviving spouses for COVID-19 related events.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. The Legislatures finds and declares that veterans, surviving
8 spouses, and their families have been financially impacted by the
9 COVID-19 pandemic. These veterans served our country and State,
10 and they and their families made many sacrifices during their
11 service. It is essential that we support these veterans and their
12 families in this time of need. A one-time financial assistance relief
13 grant would help mitigate the negative effects and economic impact
14 of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a one-time special needs grant for
15 COVID-19 related events would help mitigate their financial crisis,
16 promote stability, and prevent homelessness.

17
18 2. a. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall
19 establish a temporary grant fund. The grant fund shall provide for a
20 one-time financial assistance relief grant of \$1,000 to veterans or
21 their surviving spouses. The purpose of the grant shall be to
22 mitigate the negative effects and economic impact of the COVID-19
23 pandemic on veterans, surviving spouses, and their families.

24 b. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means a person
25 who has been honorably discharged, or discharged or released under
26 other than dishonorable conditions, from the active military service
27 of the United States, or a Reserve Component thereof, including the
28 New Jersey National Guard.

29 c. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and
30 Veterans Affairs shall determine the application process, and shall
31 establish the eligibility documentation required for a person to be
32 considered a qualified applicant. A qualified applicant seeking to
33 participate in the program shall submit an application in such form
34 as shall be required by the department.

35 To be qualified, the applicant shall be a New Jersey resident
36 whose financial situation has been negatively impacted by the
37 COVID-19 pandemic in New Jersey.

38 d. The application shall be submitted to the department, and
39 upon approval, the department, if adequate moneys are available,
40 shall issue the grant. The Adjutant General may deny an applicant
41 due to insufficient moneys available in the grant fund.

42 e. The Adjutant General shall be responsible for determining
43 whether any person seeking to be considered a qualified applicant
44 under this section, for the purpose of receiving a grant, meets the
45 eligibility requirements and adjudicating an appeal from any person
46 disputing this determination. The determination of the Adjutant
47 General shall be binding.

1 3. a. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall
2 establish a temporary grant fund. The grant fund shall provide for a
3 one-time special needs grant. The purpose of the special needs
4 grant shall be to provide financial assistance to a veteran or
5 surviving spouse who needs immediate financial assistance due to a
6 COVID-19 related event. A grant under this section may be
7 provided in addition to a grant provided under section 2 of
8 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The
9 amount of the special needs grant shall not exceed \$2,000.

10 b. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means a person
11 who has been honorably discharged, or discharged or released under
12 other than dishonorable conditions, from the active military service
13 of the United States, or a Reserve Component thereof, including the
14 New Jersey National Guard.

15 c. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and
16 Veterans Affairs shall determine the application process, and shall
17 establish the eligibility documentation required for a person to be
18 considered a qualified applicant. A qualified applicant seeking to
19 participate in the program shall submit an application in such form
20 as shall be required by the department.

21 To be qualified, the applicant shall be a New Jersey resident who
22 needs immediate financial assistance due to a COVID-19 related
23 event.

24 d. The application shall be submitted to the department, and
25 upon approval, the department, if adequate moneys are available,
26 shall issue the grant. Any grant issued shall be paid directly to a
27 vendor or creditor of the applicant. No money shall be paid directly
28 to the applicant or a member of the applicant's family. The
29 Adjutant General may deny an applicant due to insufficient moneys
30 available in the grant fund.

31 e. The Adjutant General shall be responsible for determining
32 whether any person seeking to be considered a qualified applicant
33 under this act, for the purpose of receiving a grant, meets the
34 eligibility requirements and adjudicating an appeal from any person
35 disputing this determination. The determination of the Adjutant
36 General shall be binding.

37
38 4. a. The temporary grant funds established by the Department
39 of Military and Veterans Affairs in accordance with sections 2 and
40 3 of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall
41 be maintained as a separate accounts and administered by the
42 Department of the Treasury to carry out the provisions of this act,
43 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

44 The State Treasurer shall administer the funds, which shall be
45 credited with:

1 (1) moneys received by the State as gifts, grants, or donations
2 for this purpose, including grants accepted by the Department of
3 Military and Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 12 of
4 P.L.1987, c.444 (C.38A:3-6.2);

5 (2) moneys that the Legislature may appropriate; and

6 (3) other moneys made available including, but not limited to,
7 funds provided by the federal government.

8 b. The department may claim from the funds, an amount, which
9 shall not exceed five percent of the moneys available in the fund, to
10 cover administrative expenses.

11
12 5. The Adjutant General may adopt, in accordance with the
13 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
14 seq.), rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of
15 this act, P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

16
17 6. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the
18 first day of the 13th month after enactment.

19
20
21 STATEMENT

22
23 Veterans, surviving spouses, and their families have been
24 financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

25 This bill provides a one-time relief grant of \$1,000 to veterans or
26 surviving spouses to help mitigate the negative effects and financial
27 impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in New Jersey. This bill also
28 provides a one-time special needs grant, not to exceed \$2,000, to a
29 veteran or surviving spouse who needs immediate financial
30 assistance due to a COVID-19 related event.

31 Under the bill, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
32 will administer the application process for the grants. The Adjutant
33 General will determine the process, and establish the eligibility
34 documentation for a person to be considered a qualified applicant.
35 A qualified applicant seeking to participate in the program will
36 submit an application in such form as will be required by the
37 department. An application may be denied if there are insufficient
38 moneys in the grant fund. An applicant must be a New Jersey
39 resident.

40 Any money approved under the special needs grant will go
41 directly to the vendor or creditor of the applicant, and no special
42 needs grant money will be issued directly to the applicant or a
43 member of the applicant's family.

44 The State Treasurer will administer the grant fund, which will be
45 credited with: (1) moneys received by the department as gifts,
46 grants, or donations; (2) moneys that the Legislature may

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1 appropriate; and (3) other moneys made available including, but not
2 limited to, funds provided by the federal government.

3 For the purposes of the bill, "veteran" means a person who has
4 been honorably discharged, or discharged or released under other
5 than dishonorable conditions, from the active military service of the
6 United States, or a Reserve Component thereof, including the New
7 Jersey National Guard.