

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 97**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Connors

SYNOPSIS

Proposes amendment to Constitution to provide civil service hiring preference and property tax deduction to veteran who received badge, medal, or ribbon for serving in support of federal military combat operation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/29/2020)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** proposing to amend Article VII,
2 Section I, paragraph 2, and Article VIII, Section I, paragraph 3
3 of the New Jersey Constitution.

4
5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
6 *General Assembly concurring):*

7
8 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of
9 the State of New Jersey is agree to:

10
11 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

12
13 a. Amend Article VII, Section I, paragraph 2 to read as
14 follows:

15 2. Appointments and promotions in the civil service of the
16 State, and of such political subdivisions as may be provided by law,
17 shall be made according to merit and fitness to be ascertained, as far
18 as practicable, by examination, which, as far as practicable, shall be
19 competitive; except that preference in appointments by reason of
20 active service in any branch of the military or naval forces of the
21 United States in time of war, or in support of combat operations for
22 which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the service
23 member, may be provided by law.

24 (cf: Art. VII, Sec. I, par. 2)

25
26 b. Amend Article VIII, Section 1, paragraph 3 to read as
27 follows:

28 3. Any citizen and resident of this State now or hereafter
29 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
30 from active service, in time of war or other emergency as, from
31 time to time, defined by the Legislature, or in support of combat
32 operations for which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the
33 service member, in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United
34 States shall be entitled, annually to a deduction from the amount of
35 any tax bill for taxes on real and personal property, or both,
36 including taxes attributable to a residential unit held by a
37 stockholder in a cooperative or mutual housing corporation in the
38 sum of \$50 or if the amount of any such tax bill shall be less than
39 \$50, to a cancellation thereof, except that the deduction or
40 cancellation shall be \$100 in tax year 2000, \$150 in tax year 2001,
41 \$200 in tax year 2002 and \$250 in each tax year thereafter. The
42 deduction or cancellation shall not be altered or repealed. Any
43 person hereinabove described who has been or shall be declared by
44 the United States Veterans Administration, or its successor, to have
45 a service-connected disability, shall be entitled to such further

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 deduction from taxation as from time to time may be provided by
2 law. The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State
3 who has met or shall meet his or her death on active duty in time of
4 war or of other emergency as so defined, or in support of combat
5 operations for which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the
6 service member, in any such service shall be entitled, during her
7 widowhood or his widowerhood, as the case may be, and while a
8 resident of this State, to the deduction or cancellation in this
9 subsection provided for honorably discharged veterans and to such
10 further deduction as from time to time may be provided by law.
11 The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State who
12 has had or shall hereafter have active service in time of war or of
13 other emergency as so defined, or in support of combat operations
14 for which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the service
15 member, in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States
16 and who died or shall die while on active duty in any branch of the
17 Armed Forces of the United States, or who has been or may
18 hereafter be honorably discharged or released under honorable
19 circumstances from active service in time of war or of other
20 emergency as so defined, or in support of combat operations for
21 which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the service
22 member, in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States
23 shall be entitled, during her widowhood or his widowerhood, as the
24 case may be, and while a resident of this State, to the deduction or
25 cancellation in this subsection provided for honorably discharged
26 veterans and to such further deductions as from time to time may be
27 provided by law.

28 b. A continuing care retirement community shall receive a
29 veterans' property tax deduction on behalf of eligible veterans. The
30 amount of the property tax deduction shall be the dollar amount of
31 the deduction multiplied by the number of eligible veterans
32 receiving the property tax deduction immediately prior to moving
33 into the continuing care retirement community. A person otherwise
34 eligible for the veterans' deduction who is a resident of a continuing
35 care retirement community shall receive the amount of the
36 deduction to the extent of the share of the taxes assessed against the
37 real property of the continuing care retirement community that is
38 attributable to the unit that the resident occupies. The continuing
39 care retirement community shall provide that amount as a payment
40 or credit to the resident. That payment or credit shall be made to
41 the resident no later than 30 days after the continuing care
42 retirement community receives the property tax bill on which the
43 credit appears. A veterans' property tax deduction shall not be paid
44 on behalf of any eligible veteran who resides in a continuing care
45 retirement community that is property tax-exempt. A resident
46 receiving a payment or credit pursuant to this subsection shall not
47 receive a veterans' property tax deduction on any other residence

1 owned in whole or in part by the resident, or any residence in which
2 the resident's spouse is living.

3 The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State
4 who has met or shall meet his or her death on active duty in time of
5 war or of other emergency as so defined in any such service shall be
6 entitled, during her widowhood or his widowerhood, as the case
7 may be, and while a resident of this State, to the deduction in this
8 subsection provided for honorably discharged veterans. The
9 surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State who has
10 had or shall hereafter have active service in time of war or of other
11 emergency as so defined in any branch of the Armed Forces of the
12 United States and who died or shall die while on active duty in any
13 branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, or who has been
14 or may hereafter be honorably discharged or released under
15 honorable circumstances from active service in time of war or of
16 other emergency as so defined in any branch of the Armed Forces
17 of the United States shall be entitled, during her widowhood or his
18 widowerhood, as the case may be, and while a resident of this State,
19 to the deduction in this subsection provided for honorably
20 discharged veterans.

21 (cf: Art. VIII, Sec. I, par. 3, amended effective December 5, 2019)

22

23 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally
24 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it
25 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election
26 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and
27 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each
28 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
29 General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three
30 months prior to the general election.

31

32 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be
33 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and
34 form:

35 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the
36 general election, the following:

37 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used,
38 a legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

39 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus
40 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are
41 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the
42 square opposite the word "No."

43 b. In every municipality the following question:

	YES	<p>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW VETERANS WITH SERVICE BADGE, MEDAL, OR RIBBON TO RECEIVE CIVIL SERVICE HIRING PREFERENCE AND PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION</p> <p>Do you approve amending the Constitution to give a civil service hiring preference to a veteran who has a badge, medal, or ribbon for serving in support of military combat operations?</p> <p>The amendment also gives those same veterans a property tax deduction.</p>
	NO	<p>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>This change to the Constitution would expand the number of veterans eligible for a civil service hiring preference. The amendment would also expand the number of veterans eligible for a property tax deduction. These benefits would be given to a veteran who was awarded a badge, medal, or ribbon for serving in support of military combat operations. At present, only veterans who served in time of war or other emergency are eligible for these benefits.</p>

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STATEMENT

At present, the State Constitution allows a veteran who served in time of war to receive a civil service hiring preference for public employment, and allows a veteran who served in time of war or during other emergency to receive a property tax deduction.

This proposed amendment would make a veteran eligible for these benefits if the veteran served in support of a federal military combat operation and received a badge, medal, or ribbon.

The criteria for a badge, medal, or ribbon is determined by the federal government and generally include, but are not limited to, military operations with active or potentially active opposing hostile forces and performance under enemy fire with a risk of grave danger.