

ASSEMBLY, No. 1477

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Speight, Reynolds-Jackson, Murphy, Gove, Quijano, Assemblymen Karabinchak, Rooney, Moen, Space, Wirths, Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Freiman, Assemblywoman Lopez, Assemblymen Stanley, Conaway, Assemblywoman Swain, Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywomen Mosquera, Tucker, Assemblyman Mejia, Assemblywomen Lampitt, Jimenez, Assemblyman Danielsen, Assemblywomen Sawyer, Eulner, Piperno, Senators Stanfield, Madden, O'Scanlon, Holzapfel, Cruz-Perez and Singleton

SYNOPSIS

Increases allowance paid to war veterans with certain service-connected disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee with technical review.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2022)

1 AN ACT providing for an increase to the allowance paid to veterans
2 with certain wartime service-connected disabilities, and
3 amending various parts of the statutory law.
4

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

7
8 1. R.S.38:18-2 is amended to read as follows:

9 38:18-2. A soldier, who has sustained a total loss of sight as a
10 result of his service during any of the wars mentioned in [section 1
11 of this chapter] R.S.38:18-1, shall be paid for the term of his life,
12 and upon his death his surviving spouse shall be paid, provided that
13 the soldier or surviving spouse shall continue as a resident of this
14 State, the sum of **[\$750.00]** \$1,800 annually, in monthly payments.
15 Such payments shall be due and payable from the date of discharge
16 or release of the soldier if application therefor shall be made within
17 one year from the date of such discharge or release. If the
18 application shall be made one year from the date of discharge or
19 release of the soldier such payments shall be due and payable from
20 the date of such application. Accrued payments to the date of
21 certification shall be paid in one lump sum.

22 (cf: P.L.1985, c.116, s.1)
23

24 2. R.S.38:18-3 is amended to read as follows:

25 38:18-3. Evidence of the service and disability mentioned in
26 **[this chapter]** R.S.38:18-1 shall be furnished to the Division of
27 Veterans Services of the Department of **[Economic Development]**
28 Military and Veterans Affairs, which shall examine the same and
29 upon being satisfied that the service was performed and the soldier
30 has been rendered totally blind as a result thereof, shall so certify to
31 the **[State Comptroller]** Director of the Division of Budget and
32 Accounting who shall, upon receipt thereof, draw **[his]** a warrant
33 on the State Treasurer in favor of the applicant in a bulk sum for
34 any accrued payments and in the sum of **[\$750.00]** \$1,800
35 annually, which the State Treasurer shall pay out of the money
36 appropriated therefor by the Legislature.

37 (cf: P.L.1971, c.329, s.2)
38

39 3. Section 2 of P.L.1947, c.263 (C.38:18A-2) is amended to
40 read as follows:

41 2. A veteran who served in the active military or naval forces
42 of the United States and who has paraplegia and permanent
43 paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body, or who has
44 osteochondritis and permanent loss of the use of both legs, or who

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 has hemiplegia and permanent paralysis of one leg and one arm or
2 either side of the body, resulting from injury to the spinal cord,
3 skeletal structure, or brain, or who has had both hands, both feet, or
4 one hand and one foot amputated, or who has lost the use of both
5 feet or both legs, due to multiple sclerosis, sustained through enemy
6 action, or accident, or resulting from disease contracted while in
7 active military or naval service, shall be paid for the term of the
8 veteran's life, and upon the veteran's death the surviving spouse,
9 domestic partner, or partner in civil union shall be paid, the sum of
10 **[\$750]** \$1,800 annually in monthly payments. Such payments shall
11 be due and payable from the date of discharge or release of the
12 veteran if application therefor shall be made within one year from
13 the date of such discharge or release. If the application shall be
14 made after one year from the date of discharge or release of the
15 veteran, such payment shall be due and payable from the date of
16 such application. Accrued payments to the date of certification shall
17 be paid in one lump sum.

18 Nothing in P.L.1947, c.263 (C.38:18A-1 et seq.) shall be
19 intended to include paraplegia or hemiplegia resulting from
20 locomotor ataxia or other forms of syphilis of the central nervous
21 system or from chronic alcohol use disorder, or to include other
22 forms of disease resulting from the veteran's own misconduct which
23 may produce signs and symptoms similar to those resulting from
24 paraplegia, osteochondritis, hemiplegia, or multiple sclerosis.
25 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.146)

26

27 4. Section 3 of P.L.1947, c.263 (C.38:18A-3) is amended to
28 read as follows:

29 3. Evidence of the service and disability mentioned in this act,
30 P.L.1947, c.263 (C.38:18A-1 et seq.), shall be furnished to the
31 Division of **[Veterans']** Veterans Services of the Department of
32 **[Human Services]** Military and Veterans Affairs, which shall
33 examine the same and upon being satisfied that the service was
34 performed and the veteran has been rendered permanently paralyzed
35 or has permanently lost the use of both legs, or has suffered
36 amputation, as defined in section 2 of this act, shall so certify to the
37 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the
38 Department of the Treasury, who shall, upon receipt thereof, draw
39 **[his]** a warrant on the State Treasurer in favor of the applicant in
40 the sum of **[\$750.00]** \$1,800 annually, which the State Treasurer
41 shall pay out of the money appropriated therefor by the Legislature.
42 (cf: P.L.1981, c.424, s.3).

43

44 5. This act shall take effect on January 1 next following the
45 date of enactment.