

ASSEMBLY, No. 5534

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 5, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Establishes and allocates funds for program to provide mental health services to veterans; appropriates \$2 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/15/2023)

1 AN ACT establishing a mental health grant program for veterans,
2 supplementing chapter 3 of Title 38A of the New Jersey Statutes,
3 and making an appropriation.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. a. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and
9 Veterans' Affairs shall establish a program to provide grants to
10 recognized veterans organizations to provide mental health services
11 to veterans. The veterans organization shall contract with mental
12 health care professionals to provide mental health services to
13 veterans.

14 b. As used in this act:

15 "Mental health care professional" means a person who provides
16 mental health services and is licensed or otherwise authorized,
17 pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes, to practice a health care
18 profession that is regulated by one of the following: the State Board
19 of Medical Examiners; the State Board of Psychological Examiners;
20 the State Board of Social Work Examiners; the State Board of
21 Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners; the Alcohol and Drug
22 Counselor Committee; the Professional Counselor Examiners
23 Committee; and the Certified Psychoanalysts Advisory Committee.

24 "Veterans organization" means a veteran organization that
25 qualifies as a section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax-exempt
26 organization under the Internal Revenue Code, or a federally
27 chartered Veterans' Service Organization. It shall also include the
28 New Jersey SOS Veterans Stakeholders Group and the New Jersey
29 Catholic Charities Diocese.

30 c. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and
31 Veterans' Affairs shall adopt regulations, pursuant to the
32 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
33 seq.), to effectuate the purposes of this act.
34

35 2. There is appropriated \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to
36 the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs for the purpose of
37 providing grants to veterans' organizations to be used to provide
38 mental health services to veterans in accordance with section 1 of
39 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill).
40

41 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
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44 STATEMENT
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46 This bill directs the Adjutant General of the Department of
47 Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish a program to provide
48 grants to certain veterans organizations to provide mental health

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1 services to veterans. The veterans organizations will contract with
2 mental health care professionals to provide the services. The bill
3 appropriates \$2,000,000 from the General Fund for the program.

4 The bill defines "veterans organization" to mean a veterans
5 organization that qualifies as a section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax-
6 exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code, or a
7 federally chartered Veterans' Service Organization. It shall also
8 include the New Jersey SOS Veterans Stakeholders Group and the
9 New Jersey Catholic Charities Diocese.