

SENATE, No. 4009

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 26, 2023

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator A.M.Bucco

SYNOPSIS

Establishes county veteran transportation grant program; appropriates \$2 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/27/2023)

1 AN ACT establishing a county veteran transportation grant program,
2 amending P.L.2015, c.211, and making an appropriation.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2015 c.211 (C.38A:3-49) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall
10 establish a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-
11 patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to attend
12 medical counseling appointments for service-connected conditions
13 approved and authorized by the United States Department of
14 Veterans Affairs within this State.

15 The department shall:

16 a. develop, in cooperation with the New Jersey Transit
17 Corporation and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,
18 a program to provide reimbursement, subject to available State or
19 federal funding, to qualified veterans who spend their own funds to
20 travel on public transportation to and from medical counseling
21 appointments for service-connected conditions within the State
22 using any motor bus or rail passenger service conducted by the
23 corporation when the veteran is not otherwise eligible for payment
24 for travel or reimbursement by means of any existing State or
25 federal program;

26 b. develop, in cooperation with the United States Department
27 of Veterans Affairs, a program to provide reimbursement to
28 qualified veterans who spend their own funds to travel using private
29 transportation to and from medical counseling appointments for
30 service-connected conditions within the State by reimbursing on a
31 per mile basis their operation of a privately-owned conveyance
32 when that veteran is not otherwise eligible for payment for travel or
33 reimbursement by means of any existing State or federal program,
34 provided that the qualified veteran shall not use a for-hire private
35 entity that charges for transportation unless such transportation is
36 necessary for the qualified veteran due to a service-connected injury
37 or disability for which the veteran has a certified rating provided by
38 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs which prevents or
39 hinders his or her ability to operate a privately-owned conveyance;

40 c. develop, in coordination with the United States Department
41 of Veterans Affairs, a system for monitoring veterans who have
42 applied for reimbursement;

43 d. notify the general public and eligible veterans that the
44 program established by this section is available to qualified
45 veterans; **[and]**

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 e. adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to
2 effectuate the purposes of this **[act]** section; and
3 f. develop, in cooperation with county governments, a program
4 to provide reimbursement, subject to available State or federal
5 funding, to qualified participating county governments that provide
6 transportation services to disabled veterans to and from medical
7 counseling appointments for service-connected conditions within
8 the State by reimbursing their operation of a county-owned
9 conveyance. As used in this subsection: "disabled veteran" means
10 any citizen and resident of this State now or hereafter honorably
11 discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active
12 service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, a
13 Reserve component thereof, or the National Guard and who has
14 been or shall be declared by the United States Veterans
15 Administration, or its successor, to have a service-connected
16 disability.
17 (cf: P.L.2015, c.211, s.1)

18
19 2. There is appropriated \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to
20 the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs for the county
21 veteran transportation grant program provided in section 1 of
22 P.L.2015, c.211 (C.38A:3-49).

23
24 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month
25 next following enactment, except that the Department of Military
26 and Veterans Affairs may take any anticipatory administrative
27 action in advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of
28 this act.

29
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31 STATEMENT

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33 This bill establishes a program to provide reimbursement, subject
34 to available State or federal funding, to qualified county
35 governments that provide transportation services to disabled
36 veterans to and from medical counseling appointments for service-
37 connected conditions within the State.

38 The bill defines "disabled veteran" to mean any citizen and
39 resident of this State now or hereafter honorably discharged or
40 released under honorable circumstances from active service in any
41 branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, a Reserve
42 component thereof, or the National Guard and who has been or will
43 be declared by the United States Veterans Administration, or its
44 successor, to have a service-connected disability.

45 The bill appropriates \$2 million to the Department of Military
46 and Veterans Affairs to effectuate the purpose of the bill.