

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 292, *approved January 20, 2026*
Senate, No. 1458 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the development of a mobile application by the
2 ¹Commissioner of the ¹ Department of ¹**【Military and】** ¹ Veterans
3 Affairs and amending ¹**【N.J.S.38A:3-6】** N.J.S.38A:21-5¹.
4

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

8 ¹**【**1. N.J.S.38A:3-6 is amended to read as follows:
9

38A:3-6. Under the direction of the Governor, the Adjutant
10 General shall:

11 (a) Exercise control over the affairs of the Department of
12 Military and Veterans' Affairs and in connection therewith make
13 and issue such regulations governing the work of the Department of
14 Military and Veterans' Affairs and the conduct of its employees as
15 may, in his judgment, be necessary or desirable.

16 (b) Be the request officer of the Department of Military and
17 Veterans' Affairs within the meaning of such term as defined in
18 section 1 of P.L.1944, c.112 (C.52:27B-1).

19 (c) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1988, c.138.)

20 (d) Command the organized militia of the State, with
21 responsibility for recruiting, mobilization, administration, training,
22 discipline, equipping, supply and general efficiency thereof. He
23 may issue such regulations and delegate such command functions as
24 he shall deem necessary. The regulations so issued shall, insofar as
25 possible, conform to the federal laws and regulations concerning the
26 same.

27 (e) Maintain the archives and be the custodian of the records
28 and papers required, by laws or regulations, to be filed with the
29 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

30 (f) Supervise, administer and coordinate those activities of the
31 selective service system for which the Governor is responsible.

32 (g) Acquire by gift, grant, purchase, exchange, eminent domain,
33 or in any other lawful manner, in the name of and for the use of the
34 State of New Jersey, all those parcels of land as shall be necessary
35 for armories and other militia facilities, and supervise the design,
36 construction, alteration, maintenance and repair of said property.

37 (h) Establish and maintain such headquarters as may be required
38 for the militia.

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted December 22, 2025.

- 1 (i) Exercise the powers vested in him and perform such other
2 duties and functions as required of him by the Governor and by
3 federal and State laws and regulations.
- 4 (j) Exercise all of the functions, powers and duties heretofore
5 vested in the Director of the Division on Veterans' Programs and
6 Special Services.
- 7 (k) Appoint and remove officers and other personnel employed
8 within the department, subject to the provisions of N.J.S.38A:3-8
9 and Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes and other applicable
10 statutes, except as herein otherwise specifically provided.
- 11 (l) Have authority to organize and maintain an administrative
12 division and to assign to employment therein secretarial, clerical
13 and other assistants in the department or the Adjutant General's
14 Office for the purpose of providing centralized support to all
15 segments of the department, including budgeting, personnel
16 administration and oversight of equal opportunity programs.
- 17 (m) Perform, exercise and discharge the functions, powers and
18 duties of the department through such divisions as may be
19 established by this act or otherwise by law.
- 20 (n) Organize the work of the department in divisions not
21 inconsistent with the provisions of this act and in bureaus and other
22 organizational units as the Adjutant General may determine to be
23 necessary for efficient and effective operation.
- 24 (o) Adopt, issue and promulgate, in the name of the department,
25 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
26 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be
27 authorized by law.
- 28 (p) Institute, or cause to be instituted, legal proceedings or
29 processes as necessary to properly enforce and give effect to any of
30 the Adjutant General's powers or duties.
- 31 (q) Make an annual report to the Governor and to the
32 Legislature of the department's operations, and render other reports
33 as the Governor shall from time to time request or as may be
34 required by law.
- 35 (r) Coordinate the activities of the department, and the several
36 divisions and other agencies therein, in a manner designed to
37 eliminate overlapping and duplicative functions.
- 38 (s) Integrate within the department, so far as practicable, all
39 staff services of the department and of several divisions and other
40 agencies therein.
- 41 (t) Request access to all relevant files and records of other State
42 agencies, which may be made available to the Adjutant General by
43 the head of a State agency, and request, subject to the permission of
44 the head of the State agency, any officer or employee therein to
45 provide information as necessary to assist in the performance of the
46 functions of the department.
- 47 (u) Supervise and operate the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial
48 Home-Menlo Park, the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-

1 Vineland, the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Paramus and
2 the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Cemetery-Arneytown.

3 (v) Supervise and operate the liaison office and the field offices
4 which serve the federal Veterans' Affairs Medical Centers.

5 (w) Make application for federal grants and programs, other than
6 education grants or funds.

7 (x) Administer the federally-funded training and rehabilitation
8 programs, except for the administration of federally-funded
9 education and training programs set forth in 38 U.S.C. s.36 et seq.

10 (y) Provide current information to the general public on State
11 and federal veterans' programs and benefits; create a comprehensive
12 public webpage for women veterans that includes, but is not limited
13 to, the following information: veterans' legal rights, benefits,
14 medical and insurance issues, education, the transition from active
15 service to civilian life, and other resources available to veterans.

16 (z) Develop and administer the New Jersey Homeless Veterans
17 Grant Program established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2013, c.239
18 (C.38A:3-6.2b).

19 (aa) Encourage and facilitate the registration of each service
20 member residing in New Jersey with the United States Department
21 of Veterans Affairs, or its successor agency. Registration shall take
22 place, as appropriate, when the service member returns from
23 deployment on federal active duty or is discharged or as soon as
24 possible thereafter. The term "service member" shall mean
25 members of the New Jersey National Guard and members of the
26 United States Armed Forces, or a Reserve component thereof, when
27 the information on each member is made available to the
28 department.

29 (bb) Develop and coordinate a volunteer-based program
30 comprised of former service members to assist and mentor veterans
31 who become involved with the criminal justice system, while
32 criminal proceedings are pending and afterward, in accessing
33 assistance to resolve the underlying problems that led or contributed
34 to the veteran's involvement with the criminal justice system
35 including, but not limited to, offering support and guidance,
36 securing housing, employment linkages, job training, education,
37 transportation, disability compensation claims, discharge status,
38 health care and other linkages available at the local, State and
39 federal level that can ease the challenge of reentry into civilian life.
40 In addition, the Adjutant General shall develop a registry of
41 volunteer mentors and make the registry available pursuant to
42 P.L.2017, c.42 (C.2C:43-23 et al.).

43 (cc) Prepare and disseminate a directory of Veterans Diversion
44 Resource Program entities currently available within New Jersey
45 pursuant to P.L.2017, c.42 (C.2C:43-23 et al.).

46 (dd) Create a comprehensive public webpage for Gold Star
47 family members that includes, but is not limited to, the following
48 information: State benefits; State and county liaisons; a list of

1 service members from New Jersey killed in action; links to other
2 Gold Star family organizations; and such other information and
3 resources as the Adjutant General deems necessary and beneficial to
4 a Gold Star family member. A "Gold Star family member" means
5 the spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent,
6 brother, sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian,
7 whether of the whole or half blood, or by adoption.

8 (ee) Identify each New Jersey resident who enrolls in the United
9 States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy, United
10 States Coast Guard Academy, United States Merchant Marine
11 Academy, or United States Air Force Academy, and issue a New
12 Jersey State flag to that individual.

13 (ff) Provide current information to veterans and their families on
14 State and federal veterans' programs and benefits via a mobile
15 application that includes, but is not limited to, information
16 regarding veterans' legal rights, benefits, medical and insurance
17 issues, education, housing, the transition from active to civilian life,
18 and other support assistance and resources available to veterans and
19 their families.

20 (cf: P.L.2019, c.283, s.1)¹

21
22 ¹1. N.J.S.38A:21-5 is amended to read as follows:

23 38A:21-5. The commissioner, as head of the department, shall
24 have all of the functions, powers, and duties heretofore vested in the
25 Administrator of Veterans Affairs of the Department of Military
26 and Veterans' Affairs, previously designated in N.J.S.38A:3-2, and
27 shall have, in addition to the functions, powers, and duties vested in
28 the commissioner by this act, N.J.S.38A:21-1 et al., or by any other
29 law, which are as follows:

30 a. Administer the work of the department;

31 b. Appoint and remove officers and other personnel employed
32 within the department, subject to the provisions of Title 11A of the
33 New Jersey Statutes and other applicable statutes, except as herein
34 otherwise specifically provided;

35 c. Have authority to organize and maintain an administrative
36 division and to assign to employment therein secretarial, clerical,
37 and other assistants in the department's or the commissioner's office
38 as the internal operations of the department may require, in
39 accordance with Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes;

40 d. Perform, exercise, and discharge the functions, powers, and
41 duties of the department through such divisions as may be
42 established by this act or otherwise by law;

43 e. Organize the work of the department in divisions, not
44 inconsistent with the provisions of this act, and in bureaus and other
45 organizational units as the commissioner may determine to be
46 necessary for efficient and effective operation;

47 f. Adopt, issue, and promulgate, in the name of the department,
48 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410

- 1 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be
2 necessary to implement this act or as may be authorized by law;
- 3 g. Formulate and adopt rules and regulations for the efficient
4 conduct of the work and general administration of the department,
5 its officers, and its employees;
- 6 h. Institute, or cause to be instituted, legal proceedings or
7 processes as may be necessary to properly enforce and give effect to
8 any of the commissioner's powers or duties;
- 9 i. Coordinate the activities of the department, and the other
10 divisions and agencies therein, in a manner designed to eliminate
11 overlapping and duplicative functions;
- 12 j. Integrate within the department, so far as practicable, all staff
13 services of the department and of the other divisions and agencies
14 therein;
- 15 k. Have access to all relevant files and records of other State
16 agencies and require any officer or employee therein to provide
17 information as necessary to assist in performing the functions of the
18 department, subject to any privacy laws;
- 19 l. Maintain suitable headquarters for the department and such
20 other quarters as the commissioner shall deem necessary to the
21 proper functioning of the department;
- 22 m. Encourage and facilitate the registration of each service
23 member residing in New Jersey with the United States Department
24 of Veterans Affairs or its successor agency. Registration shall take
25 place, as appropriate, when the service member returns from
26 deployment on federal active duty, or is discharged, or as soon as
27 possible thereafter. The term "service member" shall mean
28 members of the New Jersey National Guard and members of the
29 United States Armed Forces, or a Reserve component thereof, when
30 the information on each member is made available to the
31 department;
- 32 n. Develop and coordinate a volunteer-based program comprised
33 of former service members to assist and mentor veterans who
34 become involved with the criminal justice system, while criminal
35 proceedings are pending and afterward, with accessing assistance to
36 resolve the underlying problems that led or contributed to the
37 veteran's involvement with the criminal justice system including,
38 but not limited to, offering support and guidance, securing housing,
39 employment linkages, job training, education, transportation,
40 disability compensation claims, discharge status, health care, and
41 other linkages available at the local, State, and federal level that can
42 ease the challenge of reentry into civilian life. In addition, the
43 commissioner shall develop a registry of volunteer mentors and
44 make the registry available pursuant to P.L.2017, c.42 (C.2C:43-23
45 et al.);
- 46 o. Prepare and disseminate a directory of Veterans Diversion
47 Resource Program entities currently available within New Jersey
48 pursuant to P.L.2017, c.42 (C.2C:43-23 et al.);

1 p. Create a comprehensive public webpage for Gold Star family
2 members that includes, but is not limited to, the following
3 information: State benefits, State and county liaisons, a list of
4 service members from New Jersey killed in action, links to other
5 Gold Star family organizations, and such other information and
6 resources as the commissioner deems necessary and beneficial to a
7 Gold Star family member. A "Gold Star family member" means the
8 spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother,
9 sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the
10 whole or half blood, or by adoption, of a member of the Armed
11 Forces of the United States or the National Guard who died while
12 on active duty for the United States;

13 q. Maintain a regional network of Veteran Service Offices to
14 assist veterans and their dependents with information and guidance
15 in filing claims and to assist with employment, education, burial,
16 counseling, housing, social and medical services, and other areas of
17 concern to veterans and their families, as well as provide advice and
18 support to veterans re-entering civilian life; **and**

19 r. Perform such other functions as may be prescribed in this act
20 or by any other law; and

21 s. Shall have the authority and shall endeavor to provide current
22 information to veterans and their families on State and federal
23 veterans' programs and benefits via a mobile application that
24 includes, but is not limited to, information regarding veterans' legal
25 rights, benefits, medical and insurance issues, education, housing,
26 the transition from active to civilian life, and other support
27 assistance and resources available to veterans and their families.¹

28 (cf: N.J.S.38A:21-5)

29
30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

31
32
33
34
35 Requires Commissioner of Department of Veterans Affairs to
36 develop mobile application to provide guidance on available
37 resources to veterans and their families.