

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 108

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex and Union)

Assemblywoman TENNILLE R. MCCOY

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblymen Freiman, Conaway,

Assemblywomen Fantasia, Speight and Assemblyman Inganamort

SYNOPSIS

Urges United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish inpatient hospital facility at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/18/2024)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Department
2 of Veterans Affairs to establish an inpatient hospital facility at
3 Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, The citizens of this nation and State are indebted to the
6 sacrifice and heroism of all who have bravely served in the
7 Armed Forces of the United States; and

8 **WHEREAS**, In return for their sacrifices, this country has made a
9 commitment to meeting the health care needs of veterans,
10 especially those with service-related disabilities; and

11 **WHEREAS**, As of 2023, 338,012 veterans live in New Jersey, with
12 119,200 of them residing in the southern counties of Atlantic,
13 Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean,
14 and Salem; and

15 **WHEREAS**, There is currently no federal Department of Veterans
16 Affairs inpatient hospital facility in southern New Jersey, making it
17 necessary for veterans needing inpatient care to travel long
18 distances to northern New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and
19 Delaware; and

20 **WHEREAS**, The East Orange Veterans Medical Center, which is the
21 largest health care facility serving veterans from southern New
22 Jersey, has not been modernized in decades; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is an ideal location for
24 an inpatient hospital facility for veterans from southern New Jersey;
25 and

26 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, the average resident lives approximately 12
27 minutes away from the closest hospital; and

28 **WHEREAS**, The drive to the closest inpatient hospital facility for a
29 veteran in New Jersey can be multiple hours, so establishing an
30 inpatient hospital facility at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst will
31 significantly shorten the distance for many veterans; and

32 **WHEREAS**, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst provides a variety of
33 other services to veterans, so adding an inpatient hospital facility
34 would make trips to the base efficient and convenient for veterans;
35 and

36 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and appropriate for the State to take steps to
37 ensure that our nation's promises to the veterans of southern New
38 Jersey to have access to health care services are kept; now,
39 therefore,

40
41 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
42 *Jersey:*

43
44 1. This House urges the United States Department of Veterans
45 Affairs to establish an inpatient hospital facility at Joint Base
46 McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

1 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
2 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
3 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and to each member of the United
4 States Congress elected from this State.

5
6
7 STATEMENT
8

9 This Assembly resolution urges the United States Department of
10 Veterans Affairs to establish an inpatient hospital facility at Joint
11 Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The citizens of this nation and State
12 are indebted to the sacrifice and heroism of all who have bravely
13 served in the Armed Forces of the United States. In return for their
14 sacrifices, this country has made a commitment to meeting the
15 health care needs of veterans.

16 As of 2023, 338,012 veterans live in New Jersey, with 119,200
17 of them residing in the southern counties of Atlantic, Burlington,
18 Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, and Salem.
19 Currently, there is no federal Department of Veterans Affairs
20 inpatient hospital facility in southern New Jersey, making it
21 necessary for veterans needing inpatient care to travel long
22 distances to northern New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and
23 Delaware. The East Orange Veterans Medical Center is the largest
24 health care facility serving veterans from southern New Jersey,
25 which is over two hours away from some veterans. In New Jersey,
26 the average resident lives approximately 12 minutes away from the
27 closest hospital, therefore, requiring veterans to travel multiple
28 hours for medical care is unjust.

29 Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is an ideal location for an
30 inpatient hospital facility for veterans from southern New Jersey as
31 it shortens the travel distance for these veterans. Additionally, Joint
32 Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst provides a variety of other services to
33 veterans, therefore, making trips to the base efficient and
34 convenient for veterans and their families.

35 It is fitting and appropriate for the State to take steps to ensure
36 that our nation's promise of health care access is kept to the
37 veterans of southern New Jersey.