

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

Susan K. Livio - For The Star-ledger, 'New laws give veterans homes more rights in emergencies', South Jersey Times (online), 18 Sep 2021 007

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 219, *approved September 16, 2021*
Assembly, No. 5854

1 AN ACT concerning State veterans' memorial homes and
2 supplementing Title 38A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. a. The Division of Veterans' Healthcare Services in the
8 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall establish a
9 position to be known as a resident advocate at each State veterans'
10 memorial home. The resident advocate shall have a direct reporting
11 relationship to the director of the division.

12 b. The resident advocate shall:

13 (1) act as a liaison between the State veterans' memorial home
14 and each of the residents at the State veterans' memorial home;

15 (2) receive complaints from residents at the State veterans'
16 memorial home; and

17 (3) respond to any concerns or grievances from the residents at
18 the State veterans' memorial home and, if appropriate, submit
19 concerns or grievances to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

20 c. A resident advocate who receives an oral or written complaint
21 from a resident at a State veterans' memorial home shall log the
22 complaint from the resident on a written or electronic form. The
23 division shall develop, publish, and distribute the written and
24 electronic form to be used by the resident advocate. At a minimum,
25 the written and electronic form shall contain spaces for the following
26 information:

27 (1) the name of the resident submitting the complaint;

28 (2) the nature of the complaint;

29 (3) whether the complaint is an emergency that requires an
30 immediate response, a critical situation that requires a reasonably
31 prompt response, or a noncritical situation that requires an
32 appropriately timely response; and

33 (4) a plan of action for the complaint and an estimate time frame
34 within which the action will be taken.

35 d. A resident advocate who fills out a form under subsection c.
36 of this section shall provide one copy of the form to the resident
37 submitting the complaint and one copy to the administrator of the
38 State veterans' memorial home. The resident advocate shall also
39 retain the advocate's copy for not less than one year after the
40 complaint is resolved.

41 e. A State veterans' memorial home shall make every reasonable
42 effort to make the resident advocate at that memorial home easily
43 identifiable by posting the name and work hours of the resident
44 advocate and shall make every reasonable effort to assure that the

1 plan of action prepared by the resident advocate under paragraph (4)
2 of subsection c. of this section is carried out within the time frame
3 set forth in the plan of action.

4

5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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10 This bill requires the Division of Veterans' Healthcare Services in
11 the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish a
12 position to be known as a resident advocate at each State veterans'
13 memorial home. The bill also requires that the resident advocate
14 would have a direct reporting relationship to the director of the
15 division.

16 Under the bill, the resident advocate would:

17 (1) act as a liaison between the State veterans' memorial home and
18 each of the residents at the State veterans' memorial home;

19 (2) receive complaints from residents at the State veterans
20 memorial home; and

21 (3) respond to any concerns or grievances from the residents at the
22 State veterans' memorial home and, if appropriate, submit concerns
23 or grievances to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

24 The bill also requires the division to develop, publish, and
25 distribute a written and electronic complaint form to be used by the
26 resident advocate to record any received complaints from the
27 residents at the State veterans' memorial home and establishes a
28 record retention requirement for those complaints.

29 Currently, the three State veterans' memorial homes are the
30 following: The New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Menlo Park;
31 the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Vineland, and the New
32 Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Paramus.

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37 Requires position of resident advocate at each State veterans'
38 memorial home.

CHAPTER 219

AN ACT concerning State veterans' memorial homes and supplementing Title 38A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

C.38A:3-2b8 Resident advocate at State veterans' memorial home.

1. a. The Division of Veterans' Healthcare Services in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall establish a position to be known as a resident advocate at each State veterans' memorial home. The resident advocate shall have a direct reporting relationship to the director of the division.

b. The resident advocate shall:

(1) act as a liaison between the State veterans' memorial home and each of the residents at the State veterans' memorial home;

(2) receive complaints from residents at the State veterans memorial home; and

(3) respond to any concerns or grievances from the residents at the State veterans' memorial home and, if appropriate, submit concerns or grievances to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

c. A resident advocate who receives an oral or written complaint from a resident at a State veterans' memorial home shall log the complaint from the resident on a written or electronic form. The division shall develop, publish, and distribute the written and electronic form to be used by the resident advocate. At a minimum, the written and electronic form shall contain spaces for the following information:

(1) the name of the resident submitting the complaint;

(2) the nature of the complaint;

(3) whether the complaint is an emergency that requires an immediate response, a critical situation that requires a reasonably prompt response, or a noncritical situation that requires an appropriately timely response; and

(4) a plan of action for the complaint and an estimate time frame within which the action will be taken.

d. A resident advocate who fills out a form under subsection c. of this section shall provide one copy of the form to the resident submitting the complaint and one copy to the administrator of the State veterans' memorial home. The resident advocate shall also retain the advocate's copy for not less than one year after the complaint is resolved.

e. A State veterans' memorial home shall make every reasonable effort to make the resident advocate at that memorial home easily identifiable by posting the name and work hours of the resident advocate and shall make every reasonable effort to assure that the plan of action prepared by the resident advocate under paragraph (4) of subsection c. of this section is carried out within the time frame set forth in the plan of action.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved September 16, 2021.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5854

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

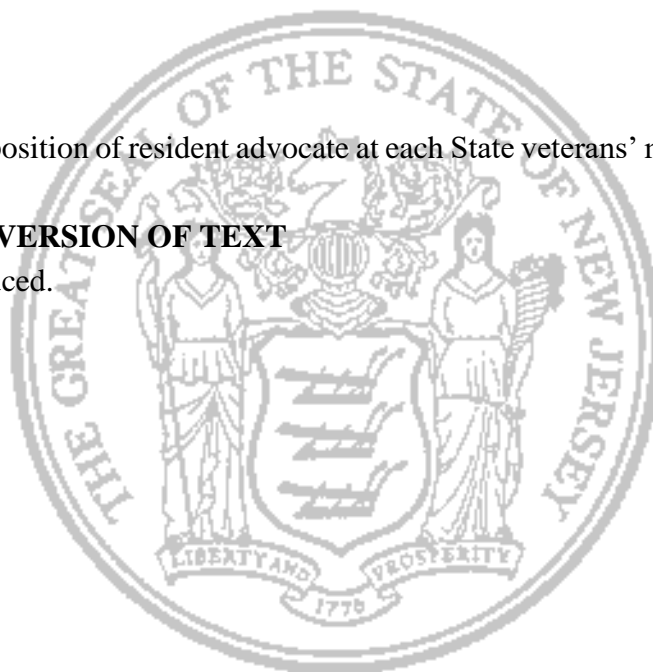
Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywoman Swain, Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Murphy, Timberlake, Assemblymen Space, Wirths, Johnson, Assemblywomen Lopez, Vainieri Huttler, Jasey, Senators Connors, Cruz-Perez, O'Scanlon and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Requires position of resident advocate at each State veterans' memorial home.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning State veterans' memorial homes and
2 supplementing Title 38A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Division of Veterans' Healthcare Services in the
8 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall establish a
9 position to be known as a resident advocate at each State veterans'
10 memorial home. The resident advocate shall have a direct reporting
11 relationship to the director of the division.

12 b. The resident advocate shall:

13 (1) act as a liaison between the State veterans' memorial home
14 and each of the residents at the State veterans' memorial home;

15 (2) receive complaints from residents at the State veterans
16 memorial home; and

17 (3) respond to any concerns or grievances from the residents at
18 the State veterans' memorial home and, if appropriate, submit
19 concerns or grievances to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

20 c. A resident advocate who receives an oral or written complaint
21 from a resident at a State veterans' memorial home shall log the
22 complaint from the resident on a written or electronic form. The
23 division shall develop, publish, and distribute the written and
24 electronic form to be used by the resident advocate. At a minimum,
25 the written and electronic form shall contain spaces for the following
26 information:

27 (1) the name of the resident submitting the complaint;

28 (2) the nature of the complaint;

29 (3) whether the complaint is an emergency that requires an
30 immediate response, a critical situation that requires a reasonably
31 prompt response, or a noncritical situation that requires an
32 appropriately timely response; and

33 (4) a plan of action for the complaint and an estimate time frame
34 within which the action will be taken.

35 d. A resident advocate who fills out a form under subsection c.
36 of this section shall provide one copy of the form to the resident
37 submitting the complaint and one copy to the administrator of the
38 State veterans' memorial home. The resident advocate shall also
39 retain the advocate's copy for not less than one year after the
40 complaint is resolved.

41 e. A State veterans' memorial home shall make every reasonable
42 effort to make the resident advocate at that memorial home easily
43 identifiable by posting the name and work hours of the resident
44 advocate and shall make every reasonable effort to assure that the
45 plan of action prepared by the resident advocate under paragraph (4)
46 of subsection c. of this section is carried out within the time frame
47 set forth in the plan of action.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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4

STATEMENT

5

6 This bill requires the Division of Veterans' Healthcare Services in
7 the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish a
8 position to be known as a resident advocate at each State veterans'
9 memorial home. The bill also requires that the resident advocate
10 would have a direct reporting relationship to the director of the
11 division.

12 Under the bill, the resident advocate would:

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14 each of the residents at the State veterans' memorial home;

15 (2) receive complaints from residents at the State veterans
16 memorial home; and

17 (3) respond to any concerns or grievances from the residents at the
18 State veterans' memorial home and, if appropriate, submit concerns
19 or grievances to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

20 The bill also requires the division to develop, publish, and
21 distribute a written and electronic complaint form to be used by the
22 resident advocate to record any received complaints from the
23 residents at the State veterans' memorial home and establishes a
24 record retention requirement for those complaints.

25 Currently, the three State veterans' memorial homes are the
26 following: The New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Menlo Park;
27 the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Vineland, and the New
28 Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Paramus.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5854

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 14, 2021

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5854.

This bill requires the Division of Veterans' Healthcare Services in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish a position to be known as a resident advocate at each State veterans' memorial home. The bill also requires that the resident advocate would have a direct reporting relationship to the director of the division.

Under the bill, the resident advocate would:

- (1) act as a liaison between the State veterans' memorial home and each of the residents at the State veterans' memorial home;
- (2) receive complaints from residents at the State veterans memorial home; and
- (3) respond to any concerns or grievances from the residents at the State veterans' memorial home and, if appropriate, submit concerns or grievances to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

The bill also requires the division to develop, publish, and distribute a written and electronic complaint form to be used by the resident advocate to record any received complaints from the residents at the State veterans' memorial home and establishes a record retention requirement for those complaints.

Currently, the three State veterans' memorial homes are the following: The New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Menlo Park; the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Vineland, and the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Paramus.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5854

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 16, 2021

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5854.

This bill requires the Division of Veterans' Healthcare Services in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish a position to be known as a resident advocate at each State veterans' memorial home. The bill also requires that the resident advocate would have a direct reporting relationship to the director of the division.

Under the bill, the resident advocate would:

- (1) act as a liaison between the State veterans' memorial home and each of the residents at the State veterans' memorial home;
- (2) receive complaints from residents at the State veterans memorial home; and
- (3) respond to any concerns or grievances from the residents at the State veterans' memorial home and, if appropriate, submit concerns or grievances to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

The bill also requires the division to develop, publish, and distribute a written and electronic complaint form to be used by the resident advocate to record any received complaints from the residents at the State veterans' memorial home and establishes a record retention requirement for those complaints.

Currently, the three State veterans' memorial homes are the following: The New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Menlo Park; the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Vineland, and the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Paramus.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the enactment of this bill would result in an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA). The increase in State costs would be primarily to provide for the hiring of a full-time resident advocate at each of the three State veterans memorial homes, which would include costs associated with salary and fringe benefits. The bill may also result in increased State costs to DMVA to the extent that additional staff, materials and supplies, and office space may be needed to support the role of the resident advocate.

The increased State costs generally assume the hiring of new employees; however it is possible that the department would establish this position and appoint an existing employee of the department for the newly created position. If DMVA appoints an existing employee for the position, the potential annual State costs could be reduced because of the relocation of existing resources and changing the role of current employees.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 5854
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 21, 2021

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Requires position of resident advocate at each State veterans' memorial home.

Type of Impact: Annual State General Fund expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

| Fiscal Impact | <u>Annual</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| State Cost Increase | Indeterminate |

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the enactment of this bill would result in an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA). The increase in State costs would be primarily to provide for the hiring of a full-time resident advocate at each of the three State veterans memorial homes, which would include costs associated with salary and fringe benefits. The bill may also result in increased State costs to DMVA to the extent that additional staff, materials and supplies, and office space may be needed to support the role of the resident advocate.
- The increased State costs generally assume the hiring of new employees; however, it is possible that the department would establish this position and appoint an existing employee of the department for the newly created position. If DMVA appoints an existing employee for the position, the potential annual State costs could be reduced because of the reallocation of existing resources and changing the role of current employees.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to establish a position to be known as a resident advocate at each State veterans memorial home. The bill also requires that the resident advocate would have a direct reporting relationship to the director of the division.

Under the bill, the resident advocate would:

- (1) act as a liaison between the State veterans memorial home and each of the residents at the State veterans memorial home;
- (2) receive complaints from residents at the State veterans memorial home; and
- (3) respond to any concerns or grievances from the residents at the State veterans memorial home and, if appropriate, submit concerns or grievances to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

The bill also requires the division to develop, publish, and distribute a written and electronic complaint form to be used by the resident advocate to record any received complaints from the residents at the State veterans memorial home and establishes a record retention requirement for those complaints.

Currently, the three State veterans memorial homes are: the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home-Menlo Park; the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home-Vineland, and the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home-Paramus.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that the enactment of this bill would result in an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures to the DMVA. The increase in State costs would be primarily to provide for the hiring of a full-time resident advocate at each State veterans memorial home, which would include costs associated with salary and fringe benefits such as health benefits, social security, and participation in the State pension system. The bill may also result in increased State costs to DMVA to the extent that additional staff, materials and supplies, and office space may be needed to support the role of the resident advocate. Currently, there are three State veterans memorial homes (the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home-Menlo Park; the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home-Vineland, and the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home-Paramus). As a result, DMVA would be required to establish three new positions and hire three individuals for those positions.

While the increased State costs generally assumes the hiring of new employees, it is possible that the department would establish this position and appoint an existing employee of the department for the newly created position. If that is the case, the potential annual State costs could be reduced because of the reallocation of existing resources and changing the role of current employees.

Section: State Government
Analyst: Roshard Williams
Associate Research Analyst
Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 3907

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Connors, Cruz-Perez, O'Scanlon and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Requires position of resident advocate at each State veterans' memorial home.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning State veterans' memorial homes and
2 supplementing Title 38A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Division of Veterans' Healthcare Services in the
8 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall establish a
9 position to be known as a resident advocate at each State veterans'
10 memorial home. The resident advocate shall have a direct reporting
11 relationship to the director of the division.

12 b. The resident advocate shall:

13 (1) act as a liaison between the State veterans' memorial home
14 and each of the residents at the State veterans' memorial home;

15 (2) receive complaints from residents at the State veterans
16 memorial home; and

17 (3) respond to any concerns or grievances from the residents at
18 the State veterans' memorial home and, if appropriate, submit
19 concerns or grievances to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

20 c. A resident advocate who receives an oral or written complaint
21 from a resident at a State veterans' memorial home shall log the
22 complaint from the resident on a written or electronic form. The
23 division shall develop, publish, and distribute the written and
24 electronic form to be used by the resident advocate. At a minimum,
25 the written and electronic form shall contain spaces for the
26 following information:

27 (1) the name of the resident submitting the complaint;

28 (2) the nature of the complaint;

29 (3) whether the complaint is an emergency that requires an
30 immediate response, a critical situation that requires a reasonably
31 prompt response, or a noncritical situation that requires an
32 appropriately timely response; and

33 (4) a plan of action for the complaint and an estimate time frame
34 within which the action will be taken.

35 d. A resident advocate who fills out a form under subsection c.
36 of this section shall provide one copy of the form to the resident
37 submitting the complaint and one copy to the administrator of the
38 State veterans' memorial home. The resident advocate shall also
39 retain the advocate's copy for not less than one year after the
40 complaint is resolved.

41 e. A State veterans' memorial home shall make every reasonable
42 effort to make the resident advocate at that memorial home easily
43 identifiable by posting the name and work hours of the resident
44 advocate and shall make every reasonable effort to assure that the
45 plan of action prepared by the resident advocate under paragraph
46 (4) of subsection c. of this section is carried out within the time
47 frame set forth in the plan of action.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

5

6 This bill requires the Division of Veterans' Healthcare Services
7 in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish a
8 position to be known as a resident advocate at each State veterans'
9 memorial home. The bill also requires that the resident advocate
10 would have a direct reporting relationship to the director of the
11 division.

12 Under the bill, the resident advocate would:

13 (1) act as a liaison between the State veterans' memorial home
14 and each of the residents at the State veterans' memorial home;

15 (2) receive complaints from residents at the State veterans
16 memorial home; and

17 (3) respond to any concerns or grievances from the residents at
18 the State veterans' memorial home and, if appropriate, submit
19 concerns or grievances to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

20 The bill also requires the division to develop, publish, and
21 distribute a written and electronic complaint form to be used by the
22 resident advocate to record any received complaints from the
23 residents at the State veterans' memorial home and establishes a
24 record retention requirement for those complaints.

25 Currently, the three State veterans' memorial homes are the
26 following: The New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Menlo Park;
27 the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Vineland, and the New
28 Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Paramus.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3907

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 15, 2021

The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3907.

This bill requires the Division of Veterans' Healthcare Services in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish a position to be known as a resident advocate at each State veterans' memorial home. The bill also requires that the resident advocate would have a direct reporting relationship to the director of the division.

Under the bill, the resident advocate would:

- (1) act as a liaison between the State veterans' memorial home and each of the residents at the State veterans' memorial home;
- (2) receive complaints from residents at the State veterans memorial home; and
- (3) respond to any concerns or grievances from the residents at the State veterans' memorial home and, if appropriate, submit concerns or grievances to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

The bill also requires the division to develop, publish, and distribute a written and electronic complaint form to be used by the resident advocate to record any received complaints from the residents at the State veterans' memorial home and establishes a record retention requirement for those complaints.

Currently, the three State veterans' memorial homes are the following: The New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Menlo Park; the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Vineland, and the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Paramus.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3907

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 22, 2021

The Senate Budget and Appropriations committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3907.

This bill requires the Division of Veterans' Healthcare Services in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish a position to be known as a resident advocate at each State veterans' memorial home. The bill also requires that the resident advocate would have a direct reporting relationship to the director of the division.

Under the bill, the resident advocate would:

- (1) act as a liaison between the State veterans' memorial home and each of the residents at the State veterans' memorial home;
- (2) receive complaints from residents at the State veterans memorial home; and
- (3) respond to any concerns or grievances from the residents at the State veterans' memorial home and, if appropriate, submit concerns or grievances to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

The bill also requires the division to develop, publish, and distribute a written and electronic complaint form to be used by the resident advocate to record any received complaints from the residents at the State veterans' memorial home and establishes a record retention requirement for those complaints.

Currently, the three State veterans' memorial homes are the following: The New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Menlo Park; the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Vineland, and the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Paramus.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the enactment of this bill would result in an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA). The increase in State costs would be primarily to provide for the hiring of a full-time resident advocate at each of the three State veterans memorial homes, which would include costs associated with salary and fringe benefits. The bill may also result in increased State costs to DMVA to the extent that additional staff, materials and supplies, and office space may be needed to support the role of the resident advocate.

The increased State costs generally assume the hiring of new employees; however, it is possible that the department would establish this position and appoint an existing employee of the department for the newly created position. If DMVA appoints an existing employee for the position, the potential annual State costs could be reduced because of the reallocation of existing resources and changing the role of current employees.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 3907
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 1, 2021

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Requires position of resident advocate at each State veterans' memorial home.

Type of Impact: Annual State General Fund expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

| Fiscal Impact | <u>Annual</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| State Cost Increase | Indeterminate |

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the enactment of this bill would result in an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA). The increase in State costs would be primarily to provide for the hiring of a full-time resident advocate at each of the three State veterans memorial homes, which would include costs associated with salary and fringe benefits. The bill may also result in increased State costs to DMVA to the extent that additional staff, materials and supplies, and office space may be needed to support the role of the resident advocate.
- The increased State costs generally assume the hiring of new employees; however, it is possible that the department would establish this position and appoint an existing employee of the department for the newly created position. If DMVA appoints an existing employee for the position, the potential annual State costs could be reduced because of the reallocation of existing resources and changing the role of current employees.

BILL DESCRIPTION

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Currently, the three State veterans memorial homes are: the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home-Menlo Park; the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home-Vineland, and the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home-Paramus.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that the enactment of this bill would result in an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures to the DMVA. The increase in State costs would be primarily to provide for the hiring of a full-time resident advocate at each State veterans memorial home, which would include costs associated with salary and fringe benefits such as health benefits, social security, and participation in the State pension system. The bill may also result in increased State costs to DMVA to the extent that additional staff, materials and supplies, and office space may be needed to support the role of the resident advocate. Currently, there are three State veterans memorial homes (the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home-Menlo Park; the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home-Vineland, and the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home-Paramus). As a result, DMVA would be required to establish three new positions and hire three individuals for those positions.

While the increased State costs generally assumes the hiring of new employees, it is possible that the department would establish this position and appoint an existing employee of the department for the newly created position. If that is the case, the potential annual State costs could be reduced because of the reallocation of existing resources and changing the role of current employees.

Section: State Government
Analyst: Roshard Williams
Associate Research Analyst
Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

09/16/2021

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

A-5121/S-3287 (Coughlin, Zwicker, Karabinchak/Singleton, Smith) – Concerns provision of energy to certain manufacturing facilities by providing exemptions to certain energy related taxes

A-5849/S-3918 (Carter, Tucker, Vainieri Huttel/Lagana, Turner) – Requires Adjutant General of DMVA send weekly reports to Commissioner of DOH on status of veterans' homes in State during every future public health emergency; requires such reports through December 31, 2021

A-5850/S-3906 (Armato, Mazzeo, Conaway/Gopal, Lagana) – Requires DMVA veterans' memorial homes to hold quarterly town hall meetings with veterans' guardians

A-5851/S-3905 (Swain, Tully, Freiman/Gopal, Lagana) – Allows veteran's guardian to remove veteran from DMVA veterans' memorial home under certain emergency circumstances

A-5852/S-3904 (Houghtaling, Johnson, Chaparro/Gopal, Lagana) – Requires DMVA veterans' memorial homes to communicate with veterans' guardians via at least two communication means

A-5853/S-3903 (Danielsen, Mejia, Jimenez/Diegnan, Vitale) – Requires administrator and assistant administrator at State veterans' memorial home have prior work experience in clinical setting

A-5854/S-3907 (Mazzeo, Armato, Chaparro/Gopal, Lagana) – Requires position of resident advocate at each State veterans' memorial home

A-5855/S-3908 (Tucker, Speight, Vainieri Huttel/Cruz-Perez) – Requires DMVA veterans' facilities provide payroll-based journal information to NJ Long-Term Care Ombudsman

A-5856/S-3909 (Zwicker, Jimenez, Conaway/Vitale, Diegnan) – Requires Director of Division of Veterans' Healthcare Services in DMVA to have prior clinical and long-term care experience