

38A:15-9 & 45:1-15.6 et. al

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2017 **CHAPTER:** 175

NJSA: 38A:15-9 & 45:1-15.6 et. al (Authorizes certain benefits for certain family members of military personnel who died while on active duty.)

BILL NO: A4401 (Substituted for S2854)

SPONSOR(S) Greenwald and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 12/15/2016

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Military & Veterans' Affairs
Appropriations

SENATE: Budget & Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 2/15/2017

SENATE: 6/19/2017

DATE OF APPROVAL: 7/21/2017

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Second Reprint enacted) Yes

A4401

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 11 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes Military & Veterans' Affairs
Appropriations

SENATE: Yes Budget & Appropriations

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

S2854

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 11 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes Military & Veterans' Affairs
Budget & Appropriations

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

(continued)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:

No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:

Yes

VETO MESSAGE:

No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:

No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

No

RWH/JA

§1 - C.38A:15-9
§2 - C.45:1-15.6
§10 - Note

P.L.2017, CHAPTER 175, *approved July 21, 2017*
Assembly, No. 4401 (*Second Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the extension of certain benefits to certain
2 family members of military personnel who died while on active
3 duty and supplementing and amending various parts of the
4 statutory law.

5

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

8

9 1. (New section) a. The department shall maintain a list of
10 each person possessing a Gold Star Family license plate, issued
11 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2011, c.17 (C.39:3-27.142), and each
12 person holding a driver's license or identification card with a Gold
13 Star Family designation, issued pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013,
14 c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3),
15 respectively. The department shall distribute the list to the
16 appropriate representative of a State veteran service entity in each
17 county.

18 b. It shall be unlawful for any person:

19 (1) To have in the person's possession any canceled, fictitious,
20 fraudulently altered, or fraudulently obtained driver's license or
21 identification card with a Gold Star Family designation;

22 (2) To lend a driver's license or identification card with a Gold
23 Star Family designation to any other person or knowingly permit
24 the use thereof by another;

25 (3) To display or represent a driver's license or identification
26 card with a Gold Star Family designation not issued to the person as
27 being the person's card;

28 (4) To permit any unlawful use of a driver's license or
29 identification card with a Gold Star Family designation issued to the
30 person;

31 (5) To photograph, photostat, duplicate, or in any way reproduce
32 a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family
33 designation, or facsimile thereof, in such a manner that it could be
34 mistaken for a valid driver's license or identification card with a
35 Gold Star Family designation, or to display or have in the person's
36 possession any such photograph, photostat, duplicate, reproduction,
37 or facsimile; or

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 AMV committee amendments adopted January 19, 2017.

²Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted January 30, 2017.

1 (6) To alter a driver's license or identification card with a Gold
2 Star Family designation in any manner.

3 c. A person who violates any provision of subsection b. of this
4 section shall be liable to a civil penalty of \$1,000. The civil penalty
5 shall be collected pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of
6 1999," P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.), in a summary
7 proceeding before the municipal court having jurisdiction.

8
9 2. (New section) Notwithstanding the provision of any law,
10 rule, or regulation to the contrary, a professional or occupational
11 board, designated in section 2 of P.L.1978, c.73 (C.45:1-15), that
12 issues a professional or occupational license, certificate of
13 registration, or certification shall not charge a license fee for the
14 issuance of a license to an applicant who holds a driver's license or
15 identification card with a Gold Star Family designation issued
16 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2
17 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively.

18
19 3. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.275 (C.13:1L-12.1) is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 1. a. (1) The department shall not charge an admission fee for
22 entrance into a State park or forest by any veteran during an event
23 held by a veterans' organization. In addition, the department shall
24 not charge a facilities fee of any kind to any veterans' organization
25 using a State park or forest for an event.

26 (2) The department shall not charge an admission fee or
27 facilities fee of any kind for entrance into a State park or forest by a
28 person holding a driver's license or identification card with a Gold
29 Star Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013,
30 c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3),
31 respectively.

32 b. As used in this section:

33 "Veteran" means any resident of the State who has been
34 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
35 from active service in any branch of the armed forces of the United
36 States, or any honorably discharged member of the American
37 Merchant Marine who served during World War II and is declared
38 by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for
39 federal veterans' benefits; and

40 "Veterans' organization" means the American Legion, Veterans
41 of Foreign Wars, or other veterans' organizations chartered under
42 federal law, or any service foundation of such an organization
43 recognized in its bylaws.

44 (cf: P.L.2007, c.275, s.1)

45

46 4. Section 4 of P.L.1989, c.162 (C.38A:3-6.6) is amended to
47 read as follows:

1 4. The following persons, if they are without sufficient
2 financial ability to provide for their support and necessary care in
3 the community, may be admitted to a veterans' facility:

4 a. A disabled veteran who has been a resident of New Jersey
5 for at least two years prior to the date of application;

6 b. The spouse of any person who has been admitted to a
7 veterans' facility, provided that the spouse is not less than 50 years
8 of age and has been married to such person for a period of not less
9 than 10 years;

10 c. The surviving spouse of a person who died an honorable
11 death while in the active military service of the United States, or
12 who was a disabled veteran at the time of death, provided that the
13 surviving spouse was the person's spouse at the time of the person's
14 service or was married to the person not less than 10 years prior to
15 the date of application and has not married since the person's death,
16 and provided that the surviving spouse has been a resident of New
17 Jersey for at least two years prior to the date of application; **[and]**

18 d. The parent of a person who was a resident of New Jersey at
19 the time of entry into, and who died an honorable death in time of
20 war or emergency while in, the active military service of the United
21 States, provided that the parent has been a resident of New Jersey
22 for at least two years prior to the date of application; and

23 e. A person holding a driver's license or identification card
24 with a Gold Star Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of
25 P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47
26 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively.

27 This section shall not be construed to prevent a veteran who
28 actually served in a New Jersey military organization, and who is
29 qualified for admission except for the required period of State
30 residence, from being admitted to a veterans' facility, but preference
31 shall be given to persons who have been residents of the State for a
32 period of at least two years prior to application.

33 (cf: P.L.1989, c.162, s.4)

34
35 5. Section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) is amended to
36 read as follows:

37 1. a. (1) In addition to the requirements for the form and
38 content of a motor vehicle driver's license under R.S.39:3-10 and a
39 probationary license issued under section 4 of P.L.1950, c.127
40 (C.39:3-13.4), the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
41 Vehicle Commission shall, upon submission of satisfactory proof,
42 designate on an initial license, renewal license, or probationary
43 license, as appropriate, that the license holder is a veteran of the
44 Armed Forces of the United States of America. The designation of
45 veteran status on an initial license, renewal license, or probationary
46 license shall not be deemed sufficient valid proof of veteran status
47 for official governmental purposes when any other statute, or any

1 regulation or other directive of a governmental entity, requires
2 documentation of veteran status.

3 (2) In addition to the requirements for the form and content of a
4 motor vehicle driver's license under R.S.39:3-10 and a probationary
5 license issued under section 4 of P.L.1950, c.127 (C.39:3-13.4), the
6 Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
7 shall, upon submission of satisfactory proof, designate on an initial
8 license, renewal license, or probationary license, as appropriate,
9 that the license holder is a Gold Star Family member. The
10 commission shall provide to the Department of Military and
11 Veterans Affairs personal identifying information of any person
12 issued a driver's license with a Gold Star Family designation
13 pursuant to this section.

14 b. For the purpose of this section:

15 "Gold Star Family member" means a spouse, domestic partner,
16 partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian,
17 or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by
18 adoption, of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or
19 National Guard, who lost his or her life while on active duty for the
20 United States.

21 "Veteran" means a person who has been honorably discharged
22 from the active military service of the United States **['; and]**.¹

23 "Satisfactory proof" means, in the case of a veteran, a copy of
24 form DD-214 or federal activation orders showing service under
25 Title 10, section 672 or section 12301, of the United States Code, or
26 a county veteran identification card only if issuance of the card
27 requires a copy of form DD-214 discharge papers or approved
28 separation forms as outlined by all branches of the military and duly
29 recorded by the county clerk's office. In the case of a Gold Star
30 Family member, satisfactory proof includes any or all of the
31 following:

32 (1) a certification from the Department of New Jersey of
33 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other organization formed
34 for the support of family members of members of the Armed Forces
35 of the United States or National Guard, who lost their lives while on
36 active duty for the United States, that the applicant is either the
37 spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother,
38 sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the
39 whole or half blood or by adoption, of a member of the armed
40 forces or National Guard who died while on active duty for the
41 United States; or

42 (2) (a) documentation deemed acceptable by the Adjutant
43 General, including, but not limited to, a federal DD Form 1300,
44 Report of Casualty, or a federal DD Form 2064, Certificate of
45 Death Overseas, which identifies the member of the Armed Forces
46 of the United States or National Guard who died while on active
47 duty for the United States; and

1 **(b) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the**
2 **service member.**

3 (cf: P.L.2015, c.97, s.1)

4

5 6. Section 2 of P.L.2011, c.17 (C.39:3-27.142) is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 2. a. Application for issuance of a Gold Star Family license
8 plate shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a
9 manner prescribed by the chief administrator. In order to be
10 deemed complete, an application shall be accompanied by proof
11 satisfactory to the Chief Administrator that the applicant is a family
12 member of a member of the armed services who died while on
13 active duty for the United States. Proof satisfactory may include
14 any or all of the following:

15 (1) a certification from the Department of New Jersey of
16 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other organization formed
17 for the support of parents of members of the armed services who
18 lost their lives while on active duty for the United States, that the
19 applicant is either the spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil
20 union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian or other legal
21 custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, of a
22 member of the armed services who died while on active duty for the
23 United States;

24 (2) documentation deemed acceptable by the Chief
25 Administrator, including but not limited to a federal DD Form
26 1300, Report of Casualty, which identifies the member of the armed
27 services who died while on active duty for the United States; **[or]**

28 (3) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the
29 service member; or

30 (4) a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star
31 Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165
32 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3),
33 respectively.

34 The chief administrator may consult with the Adjutant General
35 of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs when
36 establishing the documentation that may constitute satisfactory
37 proof of an applicant's relationship to a deceased service member.
38 In instances where an applicant is unable to produce documentation
39 deemed acceptable to the Chief Administrator, the Adjutant General
40 shall assist the chief administrator in making a determination of the
41 applicant's eligibility for a Gold Star Family license plate.

42 b. The chief administrator may designate a representative of
43 the Department of New Jersey of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.,
44 or any other organization formed for the support of parents of
45 members of the armed services who lost their lives while on active
46 duty for the United States, who shall serve as a liaison between
47 such organization and the commission. The chief administrator
48 may require an applicant for a Gold Star Family license plate to

1 submit the application to the representative for approval. Upon
2 approval, the representative shall certify on the application that the
3 applicant is either the spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil
4 union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian or other legal
5 custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, of a
6 member of the armed services who died while on active duty for the
7 United States and thereby eligible for receipt of the Gold Star
8 Family license plate. The application shall then be forwarded to the
9 chief administrator for final approval.

10 c. The commission shall provide to the Department of Military
11 and Veterans Affairs personal identifying information of any person
12 issued a Gold Star Family license plate pursuant to this section.

13 (cf: P.L.2011, c.17, s.2)

14
15 7. Section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3) is amended to read
16 as follows:

17 2. a. (1) The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall
18 issue an identification card to any resident of the State who is 14
19 years of age or older and who is not the holder of a valid permit or
20 basic driver's license. The identification card shall attest to the true
21 name, correct age, and veteran status, upon submission of
22 satisfactory proof, by any veteran, and shall contain other
23 identifying data as certified by the applicant for such identification
24 card. Every application for an identification card shall be signed
25 and verified by the applicant and shall be accompanied by the
26 written consent of at least one parent or the person's legal guardian
27 if the person is under 17 years of age and shall be supported by such
28 documentary evidence of the age, identity, and veteran status, or
29 blindness, disability, or handicap, of such person as the chief
30 administrator may require. In addition to requiring an applicant for
31 an identification card to submit satisfactory proof of identity, age,
32 and, if appropriate, veteran status, the chief administrator also shall
33 require the applicant to provide, as a condition for obtaining the
34 card, satisfactory proof that the applicant's presence in the United
35 States is authorized under federal law. If the chief administrator
36 has reasonable cause to suspect that any document presented by an
37 applicant as proof of identity, age, veteran status, or legal residency
38 is altered, false or otherwise invalid, the chief administrator shall
39 refuse to grant the identification card until such time as the
40 document may be verified by the issuing agency to the chief
41 administrator's satisfaction.

42 (2) In addition to the requirements for the form and content of an
43 identification card pursuant to this section, the Chief Administrator
44 of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall, upon
45 submission of satisfactory proof, designate on an identification card
46 that the card holder is a Gold Star Family member. The
47 commission shall provide to the Department of Military and
48 Veterans Affairs personal identifying information for any person

1 issued an identification card with a Gold Star Family designation
2 pursuant to this section.

3 b. The designation of veteran status on an identification card
4 shall not be deemed sufficient valid proof of veteran status for
5 official governmental purposes when any other statute, or any
6 regulation or other directive of a governmental entity, requires
7 documentation of veteran status.

8 c. For the purpose of this section:

9 “Gold Star Family member” means a spouse, domestic partner,
10 partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian,
11 or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by
12 adoption, of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or
13 National Guard, who lost his or her life while on active duty for the
14 United States.

15 "Veteran" means a person who has been honorably discharged
16 from the active military service of the United States; and

17 "Satisfactory proof" means, in the case of a veteran, a copy of
18 form DD-214 or federal activation orders showing service under
19 Title 10, section 672 or section 12301, of the United States Code, or
20 a county veteran identification card only if issuance of the card
21 requires a copy of form DD-214 discharge papers or approved
22 separation forms as outlined by all branches of the military and duly
23 recorded by the county clerk's office. In the case of a Gold Star
24 Family member, satisfactory proof includes any or all of the
25 following:

26 (1) a certification from the Department of New Jersey of
27 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other organization formed
28 for the support of family members of members of the Armed Forces
29 of the United States or National Guard, who lost their lives while on
30 active duty for the United States, that the applicant is either the
31 spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother,
32 sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the
33 whole or half blood or by adoption, of a member of the armed
34 forces or National Guard who died while on active duty for the
35 United States; or

36 (2) (a) documentation deemed acceptable by the Adjutant
37 General, including, but not limited to, a federal DD Form 1300,
38 Report of Casualty, or a federal DD Form 2064, Certificate of
39 Death Overseas, which identifies the member of the Armed Forces
40 of the United States or National Guard who died while on active
41 duty for the United States; and

42 (b) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the
43 service member.

44 (cf: P.L.2015, c.97, s.2)

45

46 8. Section 1 of P.L.1955, c.49 (C.40:61-22.20) is amended to
47 read as follows:

1 1. a. The governing body of any municipality bordering on the
2 Atlantic Ocean, tidal water bays or rivers which owns or shall
3 acquire, by any deed of dedication or otherwise, lands bordering on
4 the ocean, tidal water bays or rivers, or easement rights therein, for
5 a place of resort for public health and recreation and for other
6 public purposes shall have the exclusive control, government and
7 care thereof and of any boardwalk, bathing and recreational
8 facilities, safeguards and equipment, now or hereafter constructed
9 or provided thereon, and may, by ordinance, make and enforce rules
10 and regulations for the government and policing of such lands,
11 boardwalk, bathing facilities, safeguards and equipment; provided,
12 that such power of control, government, care and policing shall not
13 be construed in any manner to exclude or interfere with the
14 operation of any State law or authority with respect to such lands,
15 property and facilities. Any such municipality may, in order to
16 provide funds to improve, maintain and police the same and to
17 protect the same from erosion, encroachment and damage by sea or
18 otherwise, and to provide facilities and safeguards for public
19 bathing and recreation, including the employment of lifeguards, by
20 ordinance, make and enforce rules and regulations for the
21 government, use, maintenance and policing thereof and provide for
22 the charging and collecting of reasonable fees for the registration of
23 persons using said lands and bathing facilities, for access to the
24 beach and bathing and recreational grounds so provided and for the
25 use of the bathing and recreational facilities, but no such fees shall
26 be charged or collected from children under the age of 12 years.

27 b. A municipality may by ordinance provide that no fees, or
28 reduced fees, shall be charged to:

29 (1) persons 65 or more years of age;

30 (2) persons who meet the disability criteria for disability
31 benefits under Title II of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
32 s.401 et seq.);

33 (3) persons in active military service in any of the Armed Forces
34 of the United States and to their spouse or dependent children over
35 the age of 12 years;

36 (4) persons who are active members of the New Jersey National
37 Guard who have completed Initial Active Duty Training and to their
38 spouse or dependent children over the age of 12 years. As used in
39 this paragraph, "Initial Active Duty Training" means Basic Military
40 Training, for members of the New Jersey Air National Guard, and
41 Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, for
42 members of the New Jersey Army National Guard; **[and]**

43 (5) persons who have served in any of the Armed Forces of the
44 United States and who were discharged or released therefrom under
45 conditions other than dishonorable and who either have served at
46 least 90 days in active duty or have been discharged or released
47 from active duty by reason of a service-incurred injury or disability.
48 The Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military

1 and Veterans' Affairs shall promulgate rules and regulations
2 pertaining to veteran eligibility under this paragraph; and

3 (6) persons holding a driver's license or identification card with
4 a Gold Star Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of
5 P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47
6 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively.

7 c. A municipality providing for no fees or reduced fees
8 pursuant to paragraph (3), (4), **[or]** (5), or (6) of subsection b. of
9 this section shall track, in a manner deemed appropriate by the
10 governing body of the municipality, the number of persons who
11 qualify under the provisions of those paragraphs.

12 d. A person who qualifies for free access to beaches and
13 bathing and recreational grounds and free use of bathing and
14 recreational facilities pursuant to paragraph (3), (4), **[or]** (5), or (6)
15 of subsection b. of this section may, in lieu of obtaining and
16 presenting a municipal beach tag or similar admission pass to gain
17 such access and use, present a valid military identification card,
18 form DD-214 or similar document, or State driver's license or
19 identification card indicating that the holder is a veteran of the
20 Armed Forces of the United States or a Gold Star Family member.
21 (cf: P.L.2015, c.205, s.1)

22
23 9. Section 4 of P.L.2015, c.81 (C.52:16A-115) is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 4. The Division of the State Museum in the Department of
26 State is hereby authorized and empowered to:

27 a. employ an executive director of the New Jersey State
28 Museum;

29 b. prescribe rules and regulations consistent with the laws and
30 rules of the State of New Jersey for the operation of the museum,
31 including those relating to operations, capital projects, collections,
32 exhibits, and services;

33 c. on behalf of the State and in furtherance of the purposes of
34 the museum, solicit, receive and administer gifts, bequests, and
35 devises of property of any kind whatsoever, and grants from
36 agencies of the United States government;

37 d. make purchases for the collections and dispose of items in
38 the collections by sale or auction;

39 e. enter into contracts with individuals, organizations, and
40 institutions for services or endeavors furthering the objectives of the
41 museum's programs;

42 f. prepare and implement a fiscal plan for the museum which
43 shall include support from the State of New Jersey and the private
44 sector;

45 g. submit an annual operational and capital funding request to
46 the Governor through the Department of State and the Division of
47 Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury and to

- 1 expend or authorize the expenditure of funds derived from such
2 sources and funds as are appropriated annually to the museum;
- 3 h. manage and control the museum, together with its contents,
4 furnishings, and other properties;
- 5 i. care for and preserve property belonging to the museum;
- 6 j. provide auxiliary services such as for the sale of books,
7 periodicals, and art supplies and to provide facilities for the
8 operation of food and beverage services at the museum;
- 9 k. impose an admission charge to the museum, if deemed
10 appropriate, except the division shall not impose an admission
11 charge to a veteran, active member of the Armed Forces of the
12 United States or National Guard, or a person holding a driver's
13 license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation
14 issued pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or
15 section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively;
- 16 l. adopt bylaws for the museum's governance;
- 17 m. operate branch museums and to give technical advice to
18 other museums;
- 19 n. collect, preserve, and exhibit, in cooperation with the
20 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, Medals of Honor and
21 related memorabilia; and
- 22 o. provide, within the limits of funds appropriated therefor, for
23 a program of maintenance and support for services by the Newark
24 Museum Association for the educational and recreational use and
25 benefit of the public.
- 26 (cf: P.L.2015, c.81, s.4)
- 27

28 10. This act shall take effect ²**[immediately]** on the first day of
29 the sixth month next following the date of enactment, except that
30 the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission may take
31 any anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be
32 necessary for the implementation of this act².

33

34

35 _____

36

37 Authorizes certain benefits for certain family members of
38 military personnel who died while on active duty.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4401

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 15, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman R. BRUCE LAND

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman DAVID P. RIBLE

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman Johnson, Assemblywoman Jones, Assemblyman DeAngelo
and Assemblywoman Downey**

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes certain benefits for certain family members of military personnel who died while on active duty.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/20/2017)

A4401 GREENWALD, LAND

2

1 AN ACT concerning the extension of certain benefits to certain
2 family members of military personnel who died while on active
3 duty and supplementing and amending various parts of the
4 statutory law.

5

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13 Star Family designation, issued pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013,
14 c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3),
15 respectively. The department shall distribute the list to the
16 appropriate representative of a State veteran service entity in each
17 county.

18 b. It shall be unlawful for any person:

19 (1) To have in the person's possession any canceled, fictitious,
20 fraudulently altered, or fraudulently obtained driver's license or
21 identification card with a Gold Star Family designation;

22 (2) To lend a driver's license or identification card with a Gold
23 Star Family designation to any other person or knowingly permit
24 the use thereof by another;

25 (3) To display or represent a driver's license or identification
26 card with a Gold Star Family designation not issued to the person as
27 being the person's card;

28 (4) To permit any unlawful use of a driver's license or
29 identification card with a Gold Star Family designation issued to the
30 person;

31 (5) To photograph, photostat, duplicate, or in any way reproduce
32 a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family
33 designation, or facsimile thereof, in such a manner that it could be
34 mistaken for a valid driver's license or identification card with a
35 Gold Star Family designation, or to display or have in the person's
36 possession any such photograph, photostat, duplicate, reproduction,
37 or facsimile; or

38 (6) To alter a driver's license or identification card with a Gold
39 Star Family designation in any manner.

40 c. A person who violates any provision of subsection b. of this
41 section shall be liable to a civil penalty of \$1,000. The civil penalty
42 shall be collected pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of
43 1999," P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.), in a summary
44 proceeding before the municipal court having jurisdiction.

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 2. (New section) Notwithstanding the provision of any law,
2 rule, or regulation to the contrary, a professional or occupational
3 board, designated in section 2 of P.L.1978, c.73 (C.45:1-15), that
4 issues a professional or occupational license, certificate of
5 registration, or certification shall not charge a license fee for the
6 issuance of a license to an applicant who holds a driver's license or
7 identification card with a Gold Star Family designation issued
8 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2
9 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively.

10
11 3. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.275 (C.13:1L-12.1) is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 1. a. (1) The department shall not charge an admission fee for
14 entrance into a State park or forest by any veteran during an event
15 held by a veterans' organization. In addition, the department shall
16 not charge a facilities fee of any kind to any veterans' organization
17 using a State park or forest for an event.

18 (2) The department shall not charge an admission fee or
19 facilities fee of any kind for entrance into a State park or forest by a
20 person holding a driver's license or identification card with a Gold
21 Star Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013,
22 c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3),
23 respectively.

24 b. As used in this section:

25 "Veteran" means any resident of the State who has been
26 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
27 from active service in any branch of the armed forces of the United
28 States, or any honorably discharged member of the American
29 Merchant Marine who served during World War II and is declared
30 by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for
31 federal veterans' benefits; and

32 "Veterans' organization" means the American Legion, Veterans
33 of Foreign Wars, or other veterans' organizations chartered under
34 federal law, or any service foundation of such an organization
35 recognized in its bylaws.

36 (cf: P.L.2007, c.275, s.1)

37
38 4. Section 4 of P.L.1989, c.162 (C.38A:3-6.6) is amended to
39 read as follows:

40 4. The following persons, if they are without sufficient
41 financial ability to provide for their support and necessary care in
42 the community, may be admitted to a veterans' facility:

43 a. A disabled veteran who has been a resident of New Jersey
44 for at least two years prior to the date of application;

45 b. The spouse of any person who has been admitted to a
46 veterans' facility, provided that the spouse is not less than 50 years
47 of age and has been married to such person for a period of not less
48 than 10 years;

1 c. The surviving spouse of a person who died an honorable
2 death while in the active military service of the United States, or
3 who was a disabled veteran at the time of death, provided that the
4 surviving spouse was the person's spouse at the time of the person's
5 service or was married to the person not less than 10 years prior to
6 the date of application and has not married since the person's death,
7 and provided that the surviving spouse has been a resident of New
8 Jersey for at least two years prior to the date of application; **[and]**

9 d. The parent of a person who was a resident of New Jersey at
10 the time of entry into, and who died an honorable death in time of
11 war or emergency while in, the active military service of the United
12 States, provided that the parent has been a resident of New Jersey
13 for at least two years prior to the date of application; and

14 e. A person holding a driver's license or identification card
15 with a Gold Star Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of
16 P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47
17 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively.

18 This section shall not be construed to prevent a veteran who
19 actually served in a New Jersey military organization, and who is
20 qualified for admission except for the required period of State
21 residence, from being admitted to a veterans' facility, but preference
22 shall be given to persons who have been residents of the State for a
23 period of at least two years prior to application.

24 (cf: P.L.1989, c.162, s.4)

25

26 5. Section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) is amended to
27 read as follows:

28 1. a. (1) In addition to the requirements for the form and
29 content of a motor vehicle driver's license under R.S.39:3-10 and a
30 probationary license issued under section 4 of P.L.1950, c.127
31 (C.39:3-13.4), the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
32 Vehicle Commission shall, upon submission of satisfactory proof,
33 designate on an initial license, renewal license, or probationary
34 license, as appropriate, that the license holder is a veteran of the
35 Armed Forces of the United States of America. The designation of
36 veteran status on an initial license, renewal license, or probationary
37 license shall not be deemed sufficient valid proof of veteran status
38 for official governmental purposes when any other statute, or any
39 regulation or other directive of a governmental entity, requires
40 documentation of veteran status.

41 (2) In addition to the requirements for the form and content of a
42 motor vehicle driver's license under R.S.39:3-10 and a probationary
43 license issued under section 4 of P.L.1950, c.127 (C.39:3-13.4), the
44 Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
45 shall, upon submission of satisfactory proof, designate on an initial
46 license, renewal license, or probationary license, as appropriate,
47 that the license holder is a Gold Star Family member. The
48 commission shall provide to the Department of Military and

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1 Veterans Affairs personal identifying information of any person
2 issued a driver's license with a Gold Star Family designation
3 pursuant to this section.

4 b. For the purpose of this section:

5 "Gold Star Family member" means a spouse, domestic partner,
6 partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian,
7 or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by
8 adoption, of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or
9 National Guard, who lost his or her life while on active duty for the
10 United States.

11 "Veteran" means a person who has been honorably discharged
12 from the active military service of the United States; and

13 "Satisfactory proof" means, in the case of a veteran, a copy of
14 form DD-214 or federal activation orders showing service under
15 Title 10, section 672 or section 12301, of the United States Code, or
16 a county veteran identification card only if issuance of the card
17 requires a copy of form DD-214 discharge papers or approved
18 separation forms as outlined by all branches of the military and duly
19 recorded by the county clerk's office. In the case of a Gold Star
20 Family member, satisfactory proof includes any or all of the
21 following:

22 (1) a certification from the Department of New Jersey of
23 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other organization formed
24 for the support of family members of members of the Armed Forces
25 of the United States or National Guard, who lost their lives while on
26 active duty for the United States, that the applicant is either the
27 spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother,
28 sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the
29 whole or half blood or by adoption, of a member of the armed
30 forces or National Guard who died while on active duty for the
31 United States; or

32 (2) (a) documentation deemed acceptable by the Adjutant
33 General, including, but not limited to, a federal DD Form 1300,
34 Report of Casualty, or a federal DD Form 2064, Certificate of
35 Death Overseas, which identifies the member of the Armed Forces
36 of the United States or National Guard who died while on active
37 duty for the United States; and

38 (b) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the
39 service member.

40 (cf: P.L.2015, c.97, s.1)

41

42 6. Section 2 of P.L.2011, c.17 (C.39:3-27.142) is amended to
43 read as follows:

44 2. a. Application for issuance of a Gold Star Family license
45 plate shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a
46 manner prescribed by the chief administrator. In order to be
47 deemed complete, an application shall be accompanied by proof
48 satisfactory to the Chief Administrator that the applicant is a family

1 member of a member of the armed services who died while on
2 active duty for the United States. Proof satisfactory may include
3 any or all of the following:

4 (1) a certification from the Department of New Jersey of
5 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other organization formed
6 for the support of parents of members of the armed services who
7 lost their lives while on active duty for the United States, that the
8 applicant is either the spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil
9 union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian or other legal
10 custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, of a
11 member of the armed services who died while on active duty for the
12 United States;

13 (2) documentation deemed acceptable by the Chief
14 Administrator, including but not limited to a federal DD Form
15 1300, Report of Casualty, which identifies the member of the armed
16 services who died while on active duty for the United States; **[or]**

17 (3) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the
18 service member; or

19 (4) a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star
20 Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165
21 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3),
22 respectively.

23 The chief administrator may consult with the Adjutant General
24 of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs when
25 establishing the documentation that may constitute satisfactory
26 proof of an applicant's relationship to a deceased service member.
27 In instances where an applicant is unable to produce documentation
28 deemed acceptable to the Chief Administrator, the Adjutant General
29 shall assist the chief administrator in making a determination of the
30 applicant's eligibility for a Gold Star Family license plate.

31 b. The chief administrator may designate a representative of
32 the Department of New Jersey of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.,
33 or any other organization formed for the support of parents of
34 members of the armed services who lost their lives while on active
35 duty for the United States, who shall serve as a liaison between
36 such organization and the commission. The chief administrator
37 may require an applicant for a Gold Star Family license plate to
38 submit the application to the representative for approval. Upon
39 approval, the representative shall certify on the application that the
40 applicant is either the spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil
41 union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian or other legal
42 custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, of a
43 member of the armed services who died while on active duty for the
44 United States and thereby eligible for receipt of the Gold Star
45 Family license plate. The application shall then be forwarded to the
46 chief administrator for final approval.

1 c. The commission shall provide to the Department of Military
2 and Veterans Affairs personal identifying information of any person
3 issued a Gold Star Family license plate pursuant to this section.
4 (cf: P.L.2011, c.17, s.2)

5
6 7. Section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 2. a. (1) The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall
9 issue an identification card to any resident of the State who is 14
10 years of age or older and who is not the holder of a valid permit or
11 basic driver's license. The identification card shall attest to the true
12 name, correct age, and veteran status, upon submission of
13 satisfactory proof, by any veteran, and shall contain other
14 identifying data as certified by the applicant for such identification
15 card. Every application for an identification card shall be signed
16 and verified by the applicant and shall be accompanied by the
17 written consent of at least one parent or the person's legal guardian
18 if the person is under 17 years of age and shall be supported by such
19 documentary evidence of the age, identity, and veteran status, or
20 blindness, disability, or handicap, of such person as the chief
21 administrator may require. In addition to requiring an applicant for
22 an identification card to submit satisfactory proof of identity, age,
23 and, if appropriate, veteran status, the chief administrator also shall
24 require the applicant to provide, as a condition for obtaining the
25 card, satisfactory proof that the applicant's presence in the United
26 States is authorized under federal law. If the chief administrator
27 has reasonable cause to suspect that any document presented by an
28 applicant as proof of identity, age, veteran status, or legal residency
29 is altered, false or otherwise invalid, the chief administrator shall
30 refuse to grant the identification card until such time as the
31 document may be verified by the issuing agency to the chief
32 administrator's satisfaction.

33 (2) In addition to the requirements for the form and content of
34 an identification card pursuant to this section, the Chief
35 Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall,
36 upon submission of satisfactory proof, designate on an
37 identification card that the card holder is a Gold Star Family
38 member. The commission shall provide to the Department of
39 Military and Veterans Affairs personal identifying information for
40 any person issued an identification card with a Gold Star Family
41 designation pursuant to this section.

42 b. The designation of veteran status on an identification card
43 shall not be deemed sufficient valid proof of veteran status for
44 official governmental purposes when any other statute, or any
45 regulation or other directive of a governmental entity, requires
46 documentation of veteran status.

47 c. For the purpose of this section:

1 “Gold Star Family member” means a spouse, domestic partner,
2 partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian,
3 or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by
4 adoption, of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or
5 National Guard, who lost his or her life while on active duty for the
6 United States.

7 "Veteran" means a person who has been honorably discharged
8 from the active military service of the United States; and

9 "Satisfactory proof" means, in the case of a veteran, a copy of
10 form DD-214 or federal activation orders showing service under
11 Title 10, section 672 or section 12301, of the United States Code, or
12 a county veteran identification card only if issuance of the card
13 requires a copy of form DD-214 discharge papers or approved
14 separation forms as outlined by all branches of the military and duly
15 recorded by the county clerk's office. In the case of a Gold Star
16 Family member, satisfactory proof includes any or all of the
17 following:

18 (1) a certification from the Department of New Jersey of
19 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other organization formed
20 for the support of family members of members of the Armed Forces
21 of the United States or National Guard, who lost their lives while on
22 active duty for the United States, that the applicant is either the
23 spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother,
24 sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the
25 whole or half blood or by adoption, of a member of the armed
26 forces or National Guard who died while on active duty for the
27 United States; or

28 (2) (a) documentation deemed acceptable by the Adjutant
29 General, including, but not limited to, a federal DD Form 1300,
30 Report of Casualty, or a federal DD Form 2064, Certificate of
31 Death Overseas, which identifies the member of the Armed Forces
32 of the United States or National Guard who died while on active
33 duty for the United States; and

34 (b) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the
35 service member.

36 (cf: P.L.2015, c.97, s.2)

37

38 8. Section 1 of P.L.1955, c.49 (C.40:61-22.20) is amended to
39 read as follows:

40 1. a. The governing body of any municipality bordering on the
41 Atlantic Ocean, tidal water bays or rivers which owns or shall
42 acquire, by any deed of dedication or otherwise, lands bordering on
43 the ocean, tidal water bays or rivers, or easement rights therein, for
44 a place of resort for public health and recreation and for other
45 public purposes shall have the exclusive control, government and
46 care thereof and of any boardwalk, bathing and recreational
47 facilities, safeguards and equipment, now or hereafter constructed
48 or provided thereon, and may, by ordinance, make and enforce rules

1 and regulations for the government and policing of such lands,
2 boardwalk, bathing facilities, safeguards and equipment; provided,
3 that such power of control, government, care and policing shall not
4 be construed in any manner to exclude or interfere with the
5 operation of any State law or authority with respect to such lands,
6 property and facilities. Any such municipality may, in order to
7 provide funds to improve, maintain and police the same and to
8 protect the same from erosion, encroachment and damage by sea or
9 otherwise, and to provide facilities and safeguards for public
10 bathing and recreation, including the employment of lifeguards, by
11 ordinance, make and enforce rules and regulations for the
12 government, use, maintenance and policing thereof and provide for
13 the charging and collecting of reasonable fees for the registration of
14 persons using said lands and bathing facilities, for access to the
15 beach and bathing and recreational grounds so provided and for the
16 use of the bathing and recreational facilities, but no such fees shall
17 be charged or collected from children under the age of 12 years.

18 b. A municipality may by ordinance provide that no fees, or
19 reduced fees, shall be charged to:

20 (1) persons 65 or more years of age;

21 (2) persons who meet the disability criteria for disability
22 benefits under Title II of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
23 s.401 et seq.);

24 (3) persons in active military service in any of the Armed Forces
25 of the United States and to their spouse or dependent children over
26 the age of 12 years;

27 (4) persons who are active members of the New Jersey National
28 Guard who have completed Initial Active Duty Training and to their
29 spouse or dependent children over the age of 12 years. As used in
30 this paragraph, "Initial Active Duty Training" means Basic Military
31 Training, for members of the New Jersey Air National Guard, and
32 Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, for
33 members of the New Jersey Army National Guard; **and**

34 (5) persons who have served in any of the Armed Forces of the
35 United States and who were discharged or released therefrom under
36 conditions other than dishonorable and who either have served at
37 least 90 days in active duty or have been discharged or released
38 from active duty by reason of a service-incurred injury or disability.
39 The Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military
40 and Veterans' Affairs shall promulgate rules and regulations
41 pertaining to veteran eligibility under this paragraph; and

42 (6) persons holding a driver's license or identification card with
43 a Gold Star Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of
44 P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47
45 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively.

46 c. A municipality providing for no fees or reduced fees
47 pursuant to paragraph (3), (4), **or** (5), or (6) of subsection b. of
48 this section shall track, in a manner deemed appropriate by the

1 governing body of the municipality, the number of persons who
2 qualify under the provisions of those paragraphs.

3 d. A person who qualifies for free access to beaches and
4 bathing and recreational grounds and free use of bathing and
5 recreational facilities pursuant to paragraph (3), (4), **[or]** (5), or (6)
6 of subsection b. of this section may, in lieu of obtaining and
7 presenting a municipal beach tag or similar admission pass to gain
8 such access and use, present a valid military identification card,
9 form DD-214 or similar document, or State driver's license or
10 identification card indicating that the holder is a veteran of the
11 Armed Forces of the United States or a Gold Star Family member.

12 (cf: P.L.2015, c.205, s.1)

13

14 9. Section 4 of P.L.2015, c.81 (C.52:16A-115) is amended to
15 read as follows:

16 4. The Division of the State Museum in the Department of
17 State is hereby authorized and empowered to:

18 a. employ an executive director of the New Jersey State
19 Museum;

20 b. prescribe rules and regulations consistent with the laws and
21 rules of the State of New Jersey for the operation of the museum,
22 including those relating to operations, capital projects, collections,
23 exhibits, and services;

24 c. on behalf of the State and in furtherance of the purposes of
25 the museum, solicit, receive and administer gifts, bequests, and
26 devises of property of any kind whatsoever, and grants from
27 agencies of the United States government;

28 d. make purchases for the collections and dispose of items in
29 the collections by sale or auction;

30 e. enter into contracts with individuals, organizations, and
31 institutions for services or endeavors furthering the objectives of the
32 museum's programs;

33 f. prepare and implement a fiscal plan for the museum which
34 shall include support from the State of New Jersey and the private
35 sector;

36 g. submit an annual operational and capital funding request to
37 the Governor through the Department of State and the Division of
38 Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury and to
39 expend or authorize the expenditure of funds derived from such
40 sources and funds as are appropriated annually to the museum;

41 h. manage and control the museum, together with its contents,
42 furnishings, and other properties;

43 i. care for and preserve property belonging to the museum;

44 j. provide auxiliary services such as for the sale of books,
45 periodicals, and art supplies and to provide facilities for the
46 operation of food and beverage services at the museum;

47 k. impose an admission charge to the museum, if deemed
48 appropriate, except the division shall not impose an admission

1 charge to a veteran, active member of the Armed Forces of the
2 United States or National Guard, or a person holding a driver's
3 license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation
4 issued pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or
5 section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively;

6 l. adopt bylaws for the museum's governance;

7 m. operate branch museums and to give technical advice to
8 other museums;

9 n. collect, preserve, and exhibit, in cooperation with the
10 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, Medals of Honor and
11 related memorabilia; and

12 o. provide, within the limits of funds appropriated therefor, for
13 a program of maintenance and support for services by the Newark
14 Museum Association for the educational and recreational use and
15 benefit of the public.

16 (cf: P.L.2015, c.81, s.4)

17
18 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

19
20
21 STATEMENT

22
23 This bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle
24 Commission to approve and issue a driver's license and an
25 identification card with a Gold Star Family designation for certain
26 family members of servicemen and servicewomen who lost their
27 lives while on active duty for the United States. A Gold Star Family
28 member is defined to mean a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a
29 civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian, or other
30 legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption.

31 The types of proof needed to demonstrate a familial relationship
32 include certification from the New Jersey section of the American
33 Gold Star Mothers, Inc., a federal DD Form 1300 (Report of
34 Casualty), federal DD Form 2064 (Certificate of Death Overseas),
35 or other documentation deemed appropriate by the Adjutant
36 General.

37 Under this bill, the holder of a driver's license or identification
38 card with a Gold Star Family designation would be eligible for
39 certain benefits, including:

- 40 • Free or reduced price admission to New Jersey beaches;
41 • Free admission to State parks and forests;
42 • Free admission to the New Jersey State Museum;
43 • Waiver of license fees charged by several professional and
44 occupational licensing boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs
45 in the Department of Law and Public Safety; and
46 • Admission into homes, institutions, and hospitals administered
47 by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

1 In addition, this bill permits holders of a driver's license or
2 identification card with a Gold Star Family designation to present
3 the card to the Motor Vehicle Commission to establish the holder's
4 eligibility to receive a Gold Star Family motor vehicle license plate.
5 The bill also requires the Motor Vehicle Commission to provide to
6 the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs personal
7 identifying information of any person issued a Gold Star Family
8 license plate or a driver's license or identification card with a Gold
9 Star Family designation.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 4401

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 19, 2017

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly, No. 4401.

As amended, this bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission to approve and issue a driver's license and an identification card with a Gold Star Family designation for certain family members of servicemen and servicewomen who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States. A Gold Star Family member is defined to mean a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption.

The types of proof needed to demonstrate a familial relationship include certification from the New Jersey section of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., a federal DD Form 1300 (Report of Casualty), federal DD Form 2064 (Certificate of Death Overseas), or other documentation deemed appropriate by the Adjutant General.

Under this bill, the holder of a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation would be eligible for certain benefits, including:

- Free or reduced price admission to New Jersey beaches;
- Free admission to State parks and forests;
- Free admission to the New Jersey State Museum;
- Waiver of license fees charged by several professional and occupational licensing boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety; and
- Admission into homes, institutions, and hospitals administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

In addition, this bill permits holders of a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation to present the card to the Motor Vehicle Commission to establish the holder's eligibility to receive a Gold Star Family motor vehicle license plate. The bill also requires the Motor Vehicle Commission to provide to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs personal

identifying information of any person issued a Gold Star Family license plate or a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation.

Assembly Bill No. 4401 is identical to Senate Bill No. 2854 of 2016-2017.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to remove an extraneous word.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4401

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 30, 2017

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4401 (1R), with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission to approve and issue a driver's license and an identification card with a Gold Star Family designation for certain family members of servicemen and servicewomen who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States. A Gold Star Family member is defined as a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption.

The types of proof needed to demonstrate a familial relationship include certification from the New Jersey section of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., a federal DD Form 1300 (Report of Casualty), federal DD Form 2064 (Certificate of Death Overseas), or other documentation deemed appropriate by the Adjutant General.

Under this bill, the holder of a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation will be eligible for certain benefits, including:

- Free or reduced price admission to New Jersey beaches;
- Free admission to State parks and forests;
- Free admission to the New Jersey State Museum;
- Waiver of license fees charged by several professional and occupational licensing boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety; and
- Admission into homes, institutions, and hospitals administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

In addition, this bill permits holders of a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation to present the card to the Motor Vehicle Commission to establish the holder's eligibility to receive a Gold Star Family motor vehicle license plate. The bill also requires the Motor Vehicle Commission to provide to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs personal identifying information of any person issued a Gold Star Family license plate or a

driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation.

The bill takes effect on the first day of the sixth month following the date of enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates a potential indeterminate increase in State expenditures and a potential indeterminate annual reduction in State and local revenue as a result of this bill.

According to the Motor Vehicle Commission, the commission has issued 450 Gold Star Family License Plates since the enactment of P.L.2011, c.17, which authorized the issuance of these license plates. There are likely other New Jersey residents who are also eligible Gold Star Family designees in the State to which the Motor Vehicle Commission has not issued a Gold Star Family license plate, but who would seek to be recognized as such after the bill becomes effective. The OLS has no information on which to base an estimate of this potential growth in individuals eligible for the benefits of this bill.

State expenditure increase: an indeterminate State expenditure increase will likely be incurred by the Motor Vehicle Commission, because the bill would require a minor redesign of the existing driver's license in order to identify a location on the license for the display of a driver's Gold Star status. The MVC has existing staff capable of that design work on the license, but that would consume MVC staff hours. Once a location for the designation is decided, it would be necessary to work with the current driver's license vendors to redesign the software that produces driver's licenses to incorporate those changes. The MVC periodically makes change orders of this type, but the OLS does not have access to the cost or nature of these change orders, so it is not possible to derive an estimate from a comparable change order.

The OLS also notes that the MVC must accommodate this change in the ongoing upgrades to its technology system, formerly known as MATRX. These upgrades include actions such as updating the computer language used on legacy MVC databases, allowing the MVC to conduct basic transactions online, and developing a computer framework that would allow for mobile or temporary MVC locations. The MVC has indicated previously, when it was working with the MATRX vendor, that a change order would be bundled with other orders as part of a negotiated cost package. This would make it difficult to identify the cost of the change orders, even after the work has been performed. It is not clear how these changes will be incorporated into the work of the new technology vendors. Based upon information provided to OLS in the past by the MVC, the cost of the programming changes could range from \$25,000 to over \$100,000 under the old MATRX program; however OLS lacks the information necessary to independently verify these price ranges.

While there would be an additional burden on direct customer service staff to assist those applying for Gold Star licenses or identification cards, it is expected that the impact of that workload would not entail the hiring of additional employees. It is unclear what costs may be involved in developing new informational materials to notify the public of the availability of these new Gold Star licenses and cards, but they are likely to be limited.

A State expenditure increase from expanding eligibility for admission to State veteran's facilities to Gold Star Family designees, per section 3 of the bill, is unlikely as the homes are usually at capacity. Were homes to be slightly under capacity, the marginal cost impact of expanded eligibility would be minimal. Were homes to be significantly under capacity, the marginal cost would approximate the annual average cost per resident, which ranges among the three homes from about \$95,000 to \$105,000.

State revenue reductions due to provisions that prohibit charging of certain fees to Gold Star Family designees: while inadequate information is available upon which to base a precise estimate, the OLS concludes that annual State revenue reductions are likely to be in modest amounts.

Section 2, Professional and occupational board fees: licensing and registration fees vary widely among the several professional and occupation boards which would be required to issue licenses without charging a fee under this bill. Some licensing fees are also imposed on a biennial basis. For example, a temporary license for a salesperson under the Board of Cemeteries is \$5, while the fee for a biennial license for Medicine and Surgery issued by the Board of Medical Examiners is \$580. Given the absence of information on the professions of Gold Star Family designees, no estimate of ongoing annual revenue loss under this section of the bill is feasible.

Section 3, State park and forest admission and facilities fees: these fees vary by location, day of the week and time of year, and may be imposed per vehicle or per individual. State revenue from fees and permits, which encompass more types of fees than would be waived by this bill, total about \$8 million annually, with about 17 million visitors annually. The annual cost of a State Park pass is \$50, which covers per person and per vehicle entrance fees only. Revenue loss will likely be insignificant, but OLS has no basis for estimating a total absent information on State park and forest visitation and usage tendencies of Gold Star Family designees.

Section 9, State Museum admission: no significant revenue loss will result from this section, as in most cases admission is in exchange for a voluntary donation rather than mandatory charge.

Local revenues reductions due to provisions that prohibit charging of certain fees to Gold Star Family designees: section 8 exempts designees from fees charged by municipalities for beach and other waterfront facility admission. These fees vary widely by municipality,

are imposed differentially according to residency and are typically available on a daily, weekly or seasonal admission basis. While inadequate information is available upon which to base a precise estimate, the OLS concludes that annual local revenue reductions could be of significant amount in total but are likely to be insignificant for any single local entity. OLS has no basis for estimating revenue reductions in total or by municipality absent information on beach and other facility and usage of Gold Star Family designees.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments change the effective date of the bill, having the bill take effect on the first day of the sixth month following the date of enactment instead of immediately.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4401

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 1, 2017

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4401 (2R).

This bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission to approve and issue a driver's license and an identification card with a Gold Star Family designation for certain family members of servicemen and servicewomen who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States. A Gold Star Family member is defined as a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption.

The types of proof needed to demonstrate a familial relationship include certification from the New Jersey section of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., a federal DD Form 1300 (Report of Casualty), federal DD Form 2064 (Certificate of Death Overseas), or other documentation deemed appropriate by the Adjutant General.

Under this bill, the holder of a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation will be eligible for certain benefits, including:

- Free or reduced price admission to New Jersey beaches;
- Free admission to State parks and forests;
- Free admission to the New Jersey State Museum;
- Waiver of license fees charged by several professional and occupational licensing boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety; and
- Admission into homes, institutions, and hospitals administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

In addition, this bill permits holders of a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation to present the card to the Motor Vehicle Commission to establish the holder's eligibility to receive a Gold Star Family motor vehicle license plate. The bill also requires the Motor Vehicle Commission to provide to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs personal identifying information of any person issued a Gold Star Family license plate or a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation.

The bill takes effect on the first day of the sixth month following the date of enactment.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2854 (1R), as amended and reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates a potential indeterminate increase in State expenditures and a potential indeterminate annual reduction in State revenue as a result of the bill. Given the uncertainty as to the number of Gold Star Family designees in the State, as well as the absence of information on the likelihood of designees utilizing the benefits allowed under the bill, no precise estimate of these impacts is feasible.

According to the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC), the MVC has issued 450 Gold Star Family License Plates since the enactment of P.L.2011, c.17, which authorized the issuance of these license plates. There are likely other New Jersey residents who are also eligible Gold Star Family designees in the State to which the MVC has not issued a Gold Star Family license plate, but who would seek to be recognized as such after the bill becomes effective. The OLS has no information on which to base an estimate of this potential growth in individuals eligible for the benefits of the bill.

An indeterminate State expenditure increase will likely be incurred by the MVC because the bill would require a minor redesign of the existing driver's license in order to identify a location on the license for the display of a driver's Gold Star status.

The OLS concludes that annual State revenue reductions that would result from waiving license fees charged by several professional and occupational licensing boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety and from free admission to State parks and forests are likely to be in modest amounts.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4401

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: FEBRUARY 16, 2017

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Authorizes certain benefits for certain family members of military personnel who died while on active duty.
- Type of Impact:** State revenue reduction; State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** State professional and occupational licensing boards; Motor Vehicle Commission; Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; Department of Environmental Protection.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1 - Year 3</u>
State Cost	Indeterminate increase - See comments below
State Revenue	Indeterminate decrease - See comments below

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates a potential indeterminate increase in State expenditures and a potential indeterminate annual reduction in State revenue as a result of this bill. Due to uncertainty about the number of Gold Star Family designees in the State and the likelihood of their taking advantage of the fee waivers or reductions and other benefits proffered by the bill, no precise estimate of these impacts is feasible.
- According to the Motor Vehicle Commission, the commission has issued 450 Gold Star Family License Plates since the enactment of P.L.2011, c.17, which authorized the issuance of these license plates. There are likely other New Jersey residents who are also eligible Gold Star Family designees in the State to which the Motor Vehicle Commission has not issued a Gold Star Family license plate, but who would seek to be recognized as such after the bill becomes effective. The OLS has no information on which to base an estimate of this potential growth in individuals eligible for the benefits of this bill.
- An indeterminate State expenditure increase will likely be incurred by the Motor Vehicle Commission, because the bill would require a minor redesign of the existing driver's license in order to identify a location on the license for the display of a driver's Gold Star status.

- The OLS concludes that annual State revenue reductions that would result from waiving license fees charged by several professional and occupational licensing boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety and from free admission to State parks and forests are likely to be in modest amounts.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 4401 (2R) of 2016 authorizes the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission to approve and issue a driver's license and an identification card with a Gold Star Family designation for certain family members of servicemen and servicewomen who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States. A Gold Star Family member is defined as a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption.

Under this bill, the holder of a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation will be eligible for certain benefits, including:

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- Free admission to the New Jersey State Museum;
- Waiver of license fees charged by several professional and occupational licensing boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety; and
- Admission into homes, institutions, and hospitals administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates a potential indeterminate increase in State expenditures and a potential indeterminate annual reduction in State revenue as a result of this bill.

According to the Motor Vehicle Commission, the commission has issued 450 Gold Star Family License Plates since the enactment of P.L.2011, c.17, which authorized the issuance of these license plates. There are likely other New Jersey residents who are also eligible Gold Star Family designees in the State to which the Motor Vehicle Commission has not issued a Gold Star Family license plate, but who would seek to be recognized as such after the bill becomes effective. The OLS has no information on which to base an estimate of this potential growth in individuals eligible for the benefits of this bill.

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would consume MVC staff hours. Once a location for the designation is decided, it would be necessary to work with the current driver's license vendors to redesign the software that produces driver's licenses in order to incorporate those changes. The MVC periodically makes change orders of this type, but the OLS does not have access to the cost or nature of these change orders, so it is not possible to derive an estimate from a comparable change order.

The OLS also notes that the MVC must accommodate this change in the ongoing upgrades to its technology system, formerly known as MATRX. These upgrades include actions such as updating the computer language used on legacy MVC databases, allowing the MVC to conduct basic transactions online, and developing a computer framework that would allow for mobile or temporary MVC locations. The MVC has indicated previously, when it was working with the MATRX vendor, that a change order would be bundled with other orders as part of a negotiated cost package. This would make it difficult to identify the cost of the change orders, even after the work has been performed. It is not clear how these changes will be incorporated into the work of the new technology vendors. Based upon information provided to OLS in the past by the MVC, the cost of the programming changes could range from \$25,000 to over \$100,000 under the old MATRX program; however OLS lacks the information necessary to independently verify these price ranges.

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A State expenditure increase from expanding eligibility for admission to State veterans to Gold Star Family designees, per section 3 of the bill, is unlikely since the homes are usually at capacity. Were homes to be slightly under capacity, the marginal cost impact of expanded eligibility would be minimal. Were homes to be significantly under capacity, the marginal cost would approximate the annual average cost per resident, which ranges among the three homes from about \$95,000 to \$105,000.

State revenue reductions due to provisions that prohibit charging of certain fees to Gold Star Family designees: while inadequate information is available upon which to base a precise estimate, the OLS concludes that annual State revenue reductions are likely to be in modest amounts.

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- Section 3, State park and forest admission and facilities fees: these fees vary by location, day of the week and time of year, and may be imposed per vehicle or per individual. State revenue from fees and permits, which encompass more types of fees than would be waived by this bill, totals about \$8 million annually, with about 17 million visitors annually. The annual cost of a State Park pass is \$50, which covers per person and per vehicle entrance fees only. Revenue loss will likely be insignificant, but OLS has no basis for estimating a total absent information on State park and forest visitation and usage tendencies of Gold Star Family designees.

- Section 9, State Museum admission: no significant revenue loss will result from this section, since in most cases admission is in exchange for a voluntary donation rather than mandatory charge.

Section 8 of the bill permits municipalities to exempt designees from fees charged for beach and other waterfront facility admission. Since exemption from fees is not mandatory on the part of municipalities, no revenue impact is ascribed to this section of the bill.

Section: Legislative Budget and Finance Office
Analyst: Frank W. Haines III
Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

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

SENATE, No. 2854

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Cruz-Perez and Van Drew

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes certain benefits for certain family members of military personnel who died while on active duty.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/24/2017)

S2854 BEACH, MADDEN

2

1 AN ACT concerning the extension of certain benefits to certain
2 family members of military personnel who died while on active
3 duty and supplementing and amending various parts of the
4 statutory law.

5

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

8

9 1. (New section) a. The department shall maintain a list of each
10 person possessing a Gold Star Family license plate, issued pursuant
11 to section 2 of P.L.2011, c.17 (C.39:3-27.142), and each person
12 holding a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star
13 Family designation, issued pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165
14 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3),
15 respectively. The department shall distribute the list to the
16 appropriate representative of a State veteran service entity in each
17 county.

18 b. It shall be unlawful for any person:

19 (1) To have in the person's possession any canceled, fictitious,
20 fraudulently altered, or fraudulently obtained driver's license or
21 identification card with a Gold Star Family designation;

22 (2) To lend a driver's license or identification card with a Gold
23 Star Family designation to any other person or knowingly permit
24 the use thereof by another;

25 (3) To display or represent a driver's license or identification
26 card with a Gold Star Family designation not issued to the person as
27 being the person's card;

28 (4) To permit any unlawful use of a driver's license or
29 identification card with a Gold Star Family designation issued to the
30 person;

31 (5) To photograph, photostat, duplicate, or in any way reproduce
32 a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family
33 designation, or facsimile thereof, in such a manner that it could be
34 mistaken for a valid driver's license or identification card with a
35 Gold Star Family designation, or to display or have in the person's
36 possession any such photograph, photostat, duplicate, reproduction,
37 or facsimile; or

38 (6) To alter a driver's license or identification card with a Gold
39 Star Family designation in any manner.

40 c. A person who violates any provision of subsection b. of this
41 section shall be liable to a civil penalty of \$1,000. The civil penalty
42 shall be collected pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of
43 1999," P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.), in a summary
44 proceeding before the municipal court having jurisdiction.

45 2. (New section) Notwithstanding the provision of any law,
46 rule, or regulation to the contrary, a professional or occupational

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 board, designated in section 2 of P.L.1978, c.73 (C.45:1-15), that
2 issues a professional or occupational license, certificate of
3 registration, or certification shall not charge a license fee for the
4 issuance of a license to an applicant who holds a driver's license or
5 identification card with a Gold Star Family designation issued
6 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2
7 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively.

8
9 3. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.275 (C.13:1L-12.1) is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 1. a. (1) The department shall not charge an admission fee for
12 entrance into a State park or forest by any veteran during an event
13 held by a veterans' organization. In addition, the department shall
14 not charge a facilities fee of any kind to any veterans' organization
15 using a State park or forest for an event.

16 (2) The department shall not charge an admission fee or
17 facilities fee of any kind for entrance into a State park or forest by a
18 person holding a driver's license or identification card with a Gold
19 Star Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013,
20 c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3),
21 respectively.

22 b. As used in this section:

23 "Veteran" means any resident of the State who has been
24 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
25 from active service in any branch of the armed forces of the United
26 States, or any honorably discharged member of the American
27 Merchant Marine who served during World War II and is declared
28 by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for
29 federal veterans' benefits; and

30 "Veterans' organization" means the American Legion, Veterans
31 of Foreign Wars, or other veterans' organizations chartered under
32 federal law, or any service foundation of such an organization
33 recognized in its bylaws.

34 (cf: P.L.2007, c.275, s.1)

35
36 4. Section 4 of P.L.1989, c.162 (C.38A:3-6.6) is amended to
37 read as follows:

38 4. The following persons, if they are without sufficient financial
39 ability to provide for their support and necessary care in the
40 community, may be admitted to a veterans' facility:

41 a. A disabled veteran who has been a resident of New Jersey
42 for at least two years prior to the date of application;

43 b. The spouse of any person who has been admitted to a
44 veterans' facility, provided that the spouse is not less than 50 years
45 of age and has been married to such person for a period of not less
46 than 10 years;

47 c. The surviving spouse of a person who died an honorable
48 death while in the active military service of the United States, or

1 who was a disabled veteran at the time of death, provided that the
2 surviving spouse was the person's spouse at the time of the person's
3 service or was married to the person not less than 10 years prior to
4 the date of application and has not married since the person's death,
5 and provided that the surviving spouse has been a resident of New
6 Jersey for at least two years prior to the date of application; **[and]**

7 d. The parent of a person who was a resident of New Jersey at
8 the time of entry into, and who died an honorable death in time of
9 war or emergency while in, the active military service of the United
10 States, provided that the parent has been a resident of New Jersey
11 for at least two years prior to the date of application; and

12 e. A person holding a driver's license or identification card
13 with a Gold Star Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of
14 P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47
15 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively.

16 This section shall not be construed to prevent a veteran who
17 actually served in a New Jersey military organization, and who is
18 qualified for admission except for the required period of State
19 residence, from being admitted to a veterans' facility, but preference
20 shall be given to persons who have been residents of the State for a
21 period of at least two years prior to application.

22 (cf: P.L.1989, c.162, s.4)

23

24 5. Section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 1. a. (1) In addition to the requirements for the form and
27 content of a motor vehicle driver's license under R.S.39:3-10 and a
28 probationary license issued under section 4 of P.L.1950, c.127
29 (C.39:3-13.4), the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
30 Vehicle Commission shall, upon submission of satisfactory proof,
31 designate on an initial license, renewal license, or probationary
32 license, as appropriate, that the license holder is a veteran of the
33 Armed Forces of the United States of America. The designation of
34 veteran status on an initial license, renewal license, or probationary
35 license shall not be deemed sufficient valid proof of veteran status
36 for official governmental purposes when any other statute, or any
37 regulation or other directive of a governmental entity, requires
38 documentation of veteran status.

39 (2) In addition to the requirements for the form and content of a
40 motor vehicle driver's license under R.S.39:3-10 and a probationary
41 license issued under section 4 of P.L.1950, c.127 (C.39:3-13.4), the
42 Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
43 shall, upon submission of satisfactory proof, designate on an initial
44 license, renewal license, or probationary license, as appropriate,
45 that the license holder is a Gold Star Family member. The
46 commission shall provide to the Department of Military and
47 Veterans Affairs personal identifying information of any person

1 issued a driver's license with a Gold Star Family designation
2 pursuant to this section.

3 b. For the purpose of this section:

4 "Gold Star Family member" means a spouse, domestic partner,
5 partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian,
6 or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by
7 adoption, of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or
8 National Guard, who lost his or her life while on active duty for the
9 United States.

10 "Veteran" means a person who has been honorably discharged
11 from the active military service of the United States; and

12 "Satisfactory proof" means, in the case of a veteran, a copy of
13 form DD-214 or federal activation orders showing service under
14 Title 10, section 672 or section 12301, of the United States Code, or
15 a county veteran identification card only if issuance of the card
16 requires a copy of form DD-214 discharge papers or approved
17 separation forms as outlined by all branches of the military and duly
18 recorded by the county clerk's office. In the case of a Gold Star
19 Family member, satisfactory proof includes any or all of the
20 following:

21 (1) a certification from the Department of New Jersey of
22 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other organization formed
23 for the support of family members of members of the Armed Forces
24 of the United States or National Guard, who lost their lives while on
25 active duty for the United States, that the applicant is either the
26 spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother,
27 sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the
28 whole or half blood or by adoption, of a member of the armed
29 forces or National Guard who died while on active duty for the
30 United States; or

31 (2) (a) documentation deemed acceptable by the Adjutant
32 General, including, but not limited to, a federal DD Form 1300,
33 Report of Casualty, or a federal DD Form 2064, Certificate of
34 Death Overseas, which identifies the member of the Armed Forces
35 of the United States or National Guard who died while on active
36 duty for the United States; and

37 (b) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the
38 service member.

39 (cf: P.L.2015, c.97, s.1)

40

41 6. Section 2 of P.L.2011, c.17 (C.39:3-27.142) is amended to
42 read as follows:

43 2. a. Application for issuance of a Gold Star Family license
44 plate shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a
45 manner prescribed by the chief administrator. In order to be
46 deemed complete, an application shall be accompanied by proof
47 satisfactory to the Chief Administrator that the applicant is a family
48 member of a member of the armed services who died while on

1 active duty for the United States. Proof satisfactory may include
2 any or all of the following:

3 (1) a certification from the Department of New Jersey of
4 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other organization formed
5 for the support of parents of members of the armed services who
6 lost their lives while on active duty for the United States, that the
7 applicant is either the spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil
8 union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian or other legal
9 custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, of a
10 member of the armed services who died while on active duty for the
11 United States;

12 (2) documentation deemed acceptable by the Chief
13 Administrator, including but not limited to a federal DD Form
14 1300, Report of Casualty, which identifies the member of the armed
15 services who died while on active duty for the United States; **[or]**

16 (3) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the
17 service member; or

18 (4) a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star
19 Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165
20 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3),
21 respectively.

22 The chief administrator may consult with the Adjutant General
23 of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs when
24 establishing the documentation that may constitute satisfactory
25 proof of an applicant's relationship to a deceased service member.
26 In instances where an applicant is unable to produce documentation
27 deemed acceptable to the Chief Administrator, the Adjutant General
28 shall assist the chief administrator in making a determination of the
29 applicant's eligibility for a Gold Star Family license plate.

30 b. The chief administrator may designate a representative of
31 the Department of New Jersey of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.,
32 or any other organization formed for the support of parents of
33 members of the armed services who lost their lives while on active
34 duty for the United States, who shall serve as a liaison between
35 such organization and the commission. The chief administrator
36 may require an applicant for a Gold Star Family license plate to
37 submit the application to the representative for approval. Upon
38 approval, the representative shall certify on the application that the
39 applicant is either the spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil
40 union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian or other legal
41 custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, of a
42 member of the armed services who died while on active duty for the
43 United States and thereby eligible for receipt of the Gold Star
44 Family license plate. The application shall then be forwarded to the
45 chief administrator for final approval.

46 c. The commission shall provide to the Department of Military
47 and Veterans Affairs personal identifying information of any person

1 issued a Gold Star Family license plate pursuant to this section.
2 (cf: P.L.2011, c.17, s.2)

3

4 7. Section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3) is amended to read
5 as follows:

6 2. a. (1) The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall
7 issue an identification card to any resident of the State who is 14
8 years of age or older and who is not the holder of a valid permit or
9 basic driver's license. The identification card shall attest to the true
10 name, correct age, and veteran status, upon submission of
11 satisfactory proof, by any veteran, and shall contain other
12 identifying data as certified by the applicant for such identification
13 card. Every application for an identification card shall be signed
14 and verified by the applicant and shall be accompanied by the
15 written consent of at least one parent or the person's legal guardian
16 if the person is under 17 years of age and shall be supported by such
17 documentary evidence of the age, identity, and veteran status, or
18 blindness, disability, or handicap, of such person as the chief
19 administrator may require. In addition to requiring an applicant for
20 an identification card to submit satisfactory proof of identity, age,
21 and, if appropriate, veteran status, the chief administrator also shall
22 require the applicant to provide, as a condition for obtaining the
23 card, satisfactory proof that the applicant's presence in the United
24 States is authorized under federal law. If the chief administrator
25 has reasonable cause to suspect that any document presented by an
26 applicant as proof of identity, age, veteran status, or legal residency
27 is altered, false or otherwise invalid, the chief administrator shall
28 refuse to grant the identification card until such time as the
29 document may be verified by the issuing agency to the chief
30 administrator's satisfaction.

31 (2) In addition to the requirements for the form and content of
32 an identification card pursuant to this section, the Chief
33 Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall,
34 upon submission of satisfactory proof, designate on an
35 identification card that the card holder is a Gold Star Family
36 member. The commission shall provide to the Department of
37 Military and Veterans Affairs personal identifying information for
38 any person issued an identification card with a Gold Star Family
39 designation pursuant to this section.

40 b. The designation of veteran status on an identification card
41 shall not be deemed sufficient valid proof of veteran status for
42 official governmental purposes when any other statute, or any
43 regulation or other directive of a governmental entity, requires
44 documentation of veteran status.

45 c. For the purpose of this section:

46 “Gold Star Family member” means a spouse, domestic partner,
47 partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian,
48 or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by

1 adoption, of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or
2 National Guard, who lost his or her life while on active duty for the
3 United States.

4 "Veteran" means a person who has been honorably discharged
5 from the active military service of the United States; and

6 "Satisfactory proof" means, in the case of a veteran, a copy of
7 form DD-214 or federal activation orders showing service under
8 Title 10, section 672 or section 12301, of the United States Code, or
9 a county veteran identification card only if issuance of the card
10 requires a copy of form DD-214 discharge papers or approved
11 separation forms as outlined by all branches of the military and duly
12 recorded by the county clerk's office. In the case of a Gold Star
13 Family member, satisfactory proof includes any or all of the
14 following:

15 (1) a certification from the Department of New Jersey of
16 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other organization formed
17 for the support of family members of members of the Armed Forces
18 of the United States or National Guard, who lost their lives while on
19 active duty for the United States, that the applicant is either the
20 spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother,
21 sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the
22 whole or half blood or by adoption, of a member of the armed
23 forces or National Guard who died while on active duty for the
24 United States; or

25 (2) (a) documentation deemed acceptable by the Adjutant
26 General, including, but not limited to, a federal DD Form 1300,
27 Report of Casualty, or a federal DD Form 2064, Certificate of
28 Death Overseas, which identifies the member of the Armed Forces
29 of the United States or National Guard who died while on active
30 duty for the United States; and

31 (b) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the
32 service member.

33 (cf: P.L.2015, c.97, s.2)

34

35 8. Section 1 of P.L.1955, c.49 (C.40:61-22.20) is amended to
36 read as follows:

37 1. a. The governing body of any municipality bordering on the
38 Atlantic Ocean, tidal water bays or rivers which owns or shall
39 acquire, by any deed of dedication or otherwise, lands bordering on
40 the ocean, tidal water bays or rivers, or easement rights therein, for
41 a place of resort for public health and recreation and for other
42 public purposes shall have the exclusive control, government and
43 care thereof and of any boardwalk, bathing and recreational
44 facilities, safeguards and equipment, now or hereafter constructed
45 or provided thereon, and may, by ordinance, make and enforce rules
46 and regulations for the government and policing of such lands,
47 boardwalk, bathing facilities, safeguards and equipment; provided,
48 that such power of control, government, care and policing shall not

1 be construed in any manner to exclude or interfere with the
2 operation of any State law or authority with respect to such lands,
3 property and facilities. Any such municipality may, in order to
4 provide funds to improve, maintain and police the same and to
5 protect the same from erosion, encroachment and damage by sea or
6 otherwise, and to provide facilities and safeguards for public
7 bathing and recreation, including the employment of lifeguards, by
8 ordinance, make and enforce rules and regulations for the
9 government, use, maintenance and policing thereof and provide for
10 the charging and collecting of reasonable fees for the registration of
11 persons using said lands and bathing facilities, for access to the
12 beach and bathing and recreational grounds so provided and for the
13 use of the bathing and recreational facilities, but no such fees shall
14 be charged or collected from children under the age of 12 years.

15 b. A municipality may by ordinance provide that no fees, or
16 reduced fees, shall be charged to:

17 (1) persons 65 or more years of age;

18 (2) persons who meet the disability criteria for disability
19 benefits under Title II of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
20 s.401 et seq.);

21 (3) persons in active military service in any of the Armed Forces
22 of the United States and to their spouse or dependent children over
23 the age of 12 years;

24 (4) persons who are active members of the New Jersey National
25 Guard who have completed Initial Active Duty Training and to their
26 spouse or dependent children over the age of 12 years. As used in
27 this paragraph, "Initial Active Duty Training" means Basic Military
28 Training, for members of the New Jersey Air National Guard, and
29 Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, for
30 members of the New Jersey Army National Guard; **[and]**

31 (5) persons who have served in any of the Armed Forces of the
32 United States and who were discharged or released therefrom under
33 conditions other than dishonorable and who either have served at
34 least 90 days in active duty or have been discharged or released
35 from active duty by reason of a service-incurred injury or disability.
36 The Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military
37 and Veterans' Affairs shall promulgate rules and regulations
38 pertaining to veteran eligibility under this paragraph; and

39 (6) persons holding a driver's license or identification card with
40 a Gold Star Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of
41 P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47
42 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively.

43 c. A municipality providing for no fees or reduced fees
44 pursuant to paragraph (3), (4), **[or]** (5), or (6) of subsection b. of
45 this section shall track, in a manner deemed appropriate by the
46 governing body of the municipality, the number of persons who
47 qualify under the provisions of those paragraphs.

1 d. A person who qualifies for free access to beaches and
2 bathing and recreational grounds and free use of bathing and
3 recreational facilities pursuant to paragraph (3), (4), **[or]** (5), or (6)
4 of subsection b. of this section may, in lieu of obtaining and
5 presenting a municipal beach tag or similar admission pass to gain
6 such access and use, present a valid military identification card,
7 form DD-214 or similar document, or State driver's license or
8 identification card indicating that the holder is a veteran of the
9 Armed Forces of the United States or a Gold Star Family member.
10 (cf: P.L.2015, c.205, s.1)

11
12 9. Section 4 of P.L.2015, c.81 (C.52:16A-115) is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 4. The Division of the State Museum in the Department of
15 State is hereby authorized and empowered to:

16 a. employ an executive director of the New Jersey State
17 Museum;

18 b. prescribe rules and regulations consistent with the laws and
19 rules of the State of New Jersey for the operation of the museum,
20 including those relating to operations, capital projects, collections,
21 exhibits, and services;

22 c. on behalf of the State and in furtherance of the purposes of
23 the museum, solicit, receive and administer gifts, bequests, and
24 devises of property of any kind whatsoever, and grants from
25 agencies of the United States government;

26 d. make purchases for the collections and dispose of items in
27 the collections by sale or auction;

28 e. enter into contracts with individuals, organizations, and
29 institutions for services or endeavors furthering the objectives of the
30 museum's programs;

31 f. prepare and implement a fiscal plan for the museum which
32 shall include support from the State of New Jersey and the private
33 sector;

34 g. submit an annual operational and capital funding request to
35 the Governor through the Department of State and the Division of
36 Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury and to
37 expend or authorize the expenditure of funds derived from such
38 sources and funds as are appropriated annually to the museum;

39 h. manage and control the museum, together with its contents,
40 furnishings, and other properties;

41 i. care for and preserve property belonging to the museum;

42 j. provide auxiliary services such as for the sale of books,
43 periodicals, and art supplies and to provide facilities for the
44 operation of food and beverage services at the museum;

45 k. impose an admission charge to the museum, if deemed
46 appropriate, except the division shall not impose an admission
47 charge to a veteran, active member of the Armed Forces of the
48 United States or National Guard, or a person holding a driver's

1 license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation
2 issued pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or
3 section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively;

- 4 l. adopt bylaws for the museum's governance;
5 m. operate branch museums and to give technical advice to
6 other museums;
7 n. collect, preserve, and exhibit, in cooperation with the
8 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, Medals of Honor and
9 related memorabilia; and
10 o. provide, within the limits of funds appropriated therefor, for
11 a program of maintenance and support for services by the Newark
12 Museum Association for the educational and recreational use and
13 benefit of the public.

14 (cf: P.L.2015, c.81, s.4)

15

16 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

17

18

19

STATEMENT

20

21 This bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle
22 Commission to approve and issue a driver's license and an
23 identification card with a Gold Star Family designation for certain
24 family members of servicemen and servicewomen who lost their
25 lives while on active duty for the United States. A Gold Star Family
26 member is defined to mean a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a
27 civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian, or other
28 legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption.

29 The types of proof needed to demonstrate a familial relationship
30 include certification from the New Jersey section of the American
31 Gold Star Mothers, Inc., a federal DD Form 1300 (Report of
32 Casualty), federal DD Form 2064 (Certificate of Death Overseas),
33 or other documentation deemed appropriate by the Adjutant
34 General.

35 Under this bill, the holder of a driver's license or identification
36 card with a Gold Star Family designation would be eligible for
37 certain benefits, including:

- 38 • Free or reduced price admission to New Jersey beaches;
39 • Free admission to State parks and forests;
40 • Free admission to the New Jersey State Museum;
41 • Waiver of license fees charged by several professional and
42 occupational licensing boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs
43 in the Department of Law and Public Safety; and
44 • Admission into homes, institutions, and hospitals administered
45 by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

46 In addition, this bill permits holders of a driver's license or
47 identification card with a Gold Star Family designation to present
48 the card to the Motor Vehicle Commission to establish the holder's

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1 eligibility to receive a Gold Star Family motor vehicle license plate.
2 The bill also requires the Motor Vehicle Commission to provide to
3 the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs personal
4 identifying information of any person issued a Gold Star Family
5 license plate or a driver's license or identification card with a Gold
6 Star Family designation.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2854

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 23, 2017

The Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2854.

As amended, this bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission to approve and issue a driver's license and an identification card with a Gold Star Family designation for certain family members of servicemen and servicewomen who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States. A Gold Star Family member is defined to mean a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption.

The types of proof needed to demonstrate a familial relationship include certification from the New Jersey section of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., a federal DD Form 1300 (Report of Casualty), federal DD Form 2064 (Certificate of Death Overseas), or other documentation deemed appropriate by the Adjutant General.

Under this bill, the holder of a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation would be eligible for certain benefits, including:

- Free or reduced price admission to New Jersey beaches;
- Free admission to State parks and forests;
- Free admission to the New Jersey State Museum;
- Waiver of license fees charged by several professional and occupational licensing boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety; and
- Admission into homes, institutions, and hospitals administered by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

In addition, this bill permits holders of a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation to present the card to the Motor Vehicle Commission to establish the holder's eligibility to receive a Gold Star Family motor vehicle license plate. The bill also requires the Motor Vehicle Commission to provide to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs personal identifying information of any person issued a Gold Star Family license plate or a

driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4401 of the 2016-2017 session.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2854

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 1, 2017

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2854 (1R), with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission to approve and issue a driver's license and an identification card with a Gold Star Family designation for certain family members of servicemen and servicewomen who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States. A Gold Star Family member is defined to mean a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption.

The types of proof needed to demonstrate a familial relationship include certification from the New Jersey section of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., a federal DD Form 1300 (Report of Casualty), federal DD Form 2064 (Certificate of Death Overseas), or other documentation deemed appropriate by the Adjutant General.

Under this bill, the holder of a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation would be eligible for certain benefits, including:

- Free or reduced price admission to New Jersey beaches;
- Free admission to State parks and forests;
- Free admission to the New Jersey State Museum;
- Waiver of license fees charged by several professional and occupational licensing boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety; and
- Admission into homes, institutions, and hospitals administered by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

In addition, this bill permits holders of a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation to present the card to the Motor Vehicle Commission to establish the holder's eligibility to receive a Gold Star Family motor vehicle license plate. The bill also requires the Motor Vehicle Commission to provide to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs personal identifying information of any person issued a Gold Star Family license plate or a

driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation.

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4401 (2R), as also reported by the committee.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments change the effective date of the bill, having the bill take effect on the first day of the sixth month following the date of enactment instead of immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates a potential indeterminate increase in State expenditures and a potential indeterminate annual reduction in State revenue as a result of the bill. Given the uncertainty as to the number of Gold Star Family designees in the State, as well as the absence of information on the likelihood of designees utilizing the benefits allowed under the bill, no precise estimate of these impacts is feasible.

According to the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC), the MVC has issued 450 Gold Star Family License Plates since the enactment of P.L.2011, c.17, which authorized the issuance of these license plates. There are likely other New Jersey residents who are also eligible Gold Star Family designees in the State to which the MVC has not issued a Gold Star Family license plate, but who would seek to be recognized as such after the bill becomes effective. The OLS has no information on which to base an estimate of this potential growth in individuals eligible for the benefits of the bill.

An indeterminate State expenditure increase will likely be incurred by the MVC because the bill would require a minor redesign of the existing driver's license in order to identify a location on the license for the display of a driver's Gold Star status.

The OLS concludes that annual State revenue reductions that would result from waiving license fees charged by several professional and occupational licensing boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety and from free admission to State parks and forests are likely to be in modest amounts.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2854

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 15, 2017

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Authorizes certain benefits for certain family members of military personnel who died while on active duty.
- Type of Impact:** State revenue reduction; State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** State professional and occupational licensing boards; Motor Vehicle Commission; Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; Department of Environmental Protection.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1 - Year 3</u>
State Cost	Indeterminate increase - See comments below
State Revenue	Indeterminate decrease - See comments below

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates a potential indeterminate increase in State expenditures and a potential indeterminate annual reduction in State revenue as a result of this bill. Due to uncertainty about the number of Gold Star Family designees in the State and the likelihood of their taking advantage of the fee waivers or reductions and other benefits proffered by the bill, no precise estimate of these impacts is feasible.
- According to the Motor Vehicle Commission, the commission has issued 450 Gold Star Family License Plates since the enactment of P.L.2011, c.17, which authorized the issuance of these license plates. There are likely other New Jersey residents who are also eligible Gold Star Family designees in the State to which the Motor Vehicle Commission has not issued a Gold Star Family license plate, but who would seek to be recognized as such after the bill becomes effective. The OLS has no information on which to base an estimate of this potential growth in individuals eligible for the benefits of this bill.
- An indeterminate State expenditure increase will likely be incurred by the Motor Vehicle Commission, because the bill would require a minor redesign of the existing driver's license in order to identify a location on the license for the display of a driver's Gold Star status.

- The OLS concludes that annual State revenue reductions that would result from waiving license fees charged by several professional and occupational licensing boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety and from free admission to State parks and forests are likely to be in modest amounts.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 2854 (2R) of 2016 authorizes the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission to approve and issue a driver's license and an identification card with a Gold Star Family designation for certain family members of servicemen and servicewomen who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States. A Gold Star Family member is defined as a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption.

Under this bill, the holder of a driver's license or identification card with a Gold Star Family designation will be eligible for certain benefits, including:

- Free or reduced price admission to New Jersey beaches;
- Free admission to State parks and forests;
- Free admission to the New Jersey State Museum;
- Waiver of license fees charged by several professional and occupational licensing boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety; and
- Admission into homes, institutions, and hospitals administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates a potential indeterminate increase in State expenditures and a potential indeterminate annual reduction in State revenue as a result of this bill.

According to the Motor Vehicle Commission, the commission has issued 450 Gold Star Family License Plates since the enactment of P.L.2011, c.17, which authorized the issuance of these license plates. There are likely other New Jersey residents who are also eligible Gold Star Family designees in the State to which the Motor Vehicle Commission has not issued a Gold Star Family license plate, but who would seek to be recognized as such after the bill becomes effective. The OLS has no information on which to base an estimate of this potential growth in individuals eligible for the benefits of this bill.

State expenditure increase: an indeterminate State expenditure increase will likely be incurred by the Motor Vehicle Commission, because the bill would require a minor redesign of the existing driver's license in order to identify a location on the license for the display of a driver's Gold Star status. The MVC has existing staff capable of that design work on the license, but that

would consume MVC staff hours. Once a location for the designation is decided, it would be necessary to work with the current driver's license vendors to redesign the software that produces driver's licenses in order to incorporate those changes. The MVC periodically makes change orders of this type, but the OLS does not have access to the cost or nature of these change orders, so it is not possible to derive an estimate from a comparable change order.

The OLS also notes that the MVC must accommodate this change in the ongoing upgrades to its technology system, formerly known as MATRX. These upgrades include actions such as updating the computer language used on legacy MVC databases, allowing the MVC to conduct basic transactions online, and developing a computer framework that would allow for mobile or temporary MVC locations. The MVC has indicated previously, when it was working with the MATRX vendor, that a change order would be bundled with other orders as part of a negotiated cost package. This would make it difficult to identify the cost of the change orders, even after the work has been performed. It is not clear how these changes will be incorporated into the work of the new technology vendors. Based upon information provided to OLS in the past by the MVC, the cost of the programming changes could range from \$25,000 to over \$100,000 under the old MATRX program; however OLS lacks the information necessary to independently verify these price ranges.

While there would be an additional burden on direct customer service staff to assist those applying for Gold Star licenses or identification cards, it is expected that the impact of that workload would not entail the hiring of additional employees. It is unclear what costs may be involved in developing new informational materials to notify the public of the availability of these new Gold Star licenses and cards, but they are likely to be limited.

A State expenditure increase from expanding eligibility for admission to State veterans to Gold Star Family designees, per section 3 of the bill, is unlikely since the homes are usually at capacity. Were homes to be slightly under capacity, the marginal cost impact of expanded eligibility would be minimal. Were homes to be significantly under capacity, the marginal cost would approximate the annual average cost per resident, which ranges among the three homes from about \$95,000 to \$105,000.

State revenue reductions due to provisions that prohibit charging of certain fees to Gold Star Family designees: while inadequate information is available upon which to base a precise estimate, the OLS concludes that annual State revenue reductions are likely to be in modest amounts.

- Section 2, Professional and occupational board fees: licensing and registration fees vary widely among the several professional and occupation boards which would be required to issue licenses without charging a fee under this bill. Some licensing fees are also issued on a biennial basis. For example, temporary license for a salesperson under the Board of Cemeteries is \$5, while the fee for a biennial license for Medicine and Surgery issued by the Board of Medical Examiners is \$580. Given the absence of information on the professions of Gold Star Family designees, no estimate of ongoing annual revenue loss under this section of the bill is feasible.
- Section 3, State park and forest admission and facilities fees: these fees vary by location, day of the week and time of year, and may be imposed per vehicle or per individual. State revenue from fees and permits, which encompass more types of fees than would be waived by this bill, totals about \$8 million annually, with about 17 million visitors annually. The annual cost of a State Park pass is \$50, which covers per person and per vehicle entrance fees only. Revenue loss will likely be insignificant, but OLS has no basis for estimating a total absent information on State park and forest visitation and usage tendencies of Gold Star Family designees.

- Section 9, State Museum admission: no significant revenue loss will result from this section, since in most cases admission is in exchange for a voluntary donation rather than mandatory charge.
- Section 8 of the bill permits municipalities to exempt designees from fees charged for beach and other waterfront facility admission. Since exemption from fees is not mandatory on the part of municipalities, no revenue impact is ascribed to this section of the bill.

Section: Legislative Budget and Finance Office

Analyst: Frank W. Haines III

Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

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

* Approved:	Approved:
_____ Introducer	_____ Frank W. Haines III Legislative Budget and Finance Officer
Date: _____	Date: _____
<p>* C.52:13B-6 et seq. provides that the introducer of a bill, upon receipt of a fiscal estimate, may approve and sign it or may file an objection with the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer within three business days. If objection is not filed within three business days, the fiscal estimate stands approved.</p>	