

VETO MESSAGE: Yes

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

Bar Report, *New Jersey Law Journal*, January 9, 2023

Bar Report, *New Jersey Law Journal*, July 10, 2023

CL/JA

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 91, *approved July 3, 2023*
Senate, No. 1388 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning military members and supplementing Title 38A
2 of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. ²**[**There is established the “Military Pro Bono Program” in
8 New Jersey’s **]** The² Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
9 ²**[to]** shall² provide ²information to² active-duty ¹[service]¹
10 members ¹of the United States Armed Forces and a Reserve
11 component thereof, including the National Guard,¹ and veterans of
12 the military ²about available programs and organizations that provide²
13 pro bono legal representation ²to active-duty members and veterans²
14 in various areas of civil law including, but not limited to, family
15 law, estate planning, employment law, immigration law, debtor-
16 creditor law and military administrative law. ²The Department shall
17 make this information, which shall include a list of participating pro
18 bono legal service providers, including law firms or attorneys,
19 available on its website.²

20

21 ²**[**2. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and
22 Veterans' Affairs, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
23 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt rules and
24 regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.**]**²

25

26 ²**[**3. 2.² This act shall take effect immediately.

27

28

29

30

31 Establishes “Military Pro Bono Program” to provide pro bono
32 legal representation to active-duty members of Armed Forces,
33 Reserve components, members of National Guard, and veterans.

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 AJU committee amendments adopted September 29, 2022.

²Senate amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations May 22, 2023.

SENATE, No. 1388

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER
District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)
Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO
District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Cruz-Perez

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Military Pro Bono Program” to provide pro bono legal representation to active-duty service members and veterans of military.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning military members and supplementing Title 38A
2 of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. There is established the "Military *Pro Bono* Program" in
8 New Jersey's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to
9 provide active-duty service members and veterans of the military
10 pro bono legal representation in various areas of civil law including,
11 but not limited to, family law, estate planning, employment law,
12 immigration law, debtor-creditor law and military administrative
13 law.

14

15 2. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and
16 Veterans' Affairs, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
17 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt rules and
18 regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

19

20 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

21

22

23

STATEMENT

24

25 This bill would establish the "Military Pro Bono Program" which
26 would provide pro bono legal representation to active-duty service
27 members and veterans of the military in various areas of civil law.
28 Attorneys on a volunteer basis would represent these individuals in
29 various civil law cases including, but not limited to, family law, estate
30 planning, immigration law, employment law, debtor-creditor law and
31 military administrative law.

32

33 The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans'
34 Affairs, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," would adopt
rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1388

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1388 with committee amendments.

This bill as amended would establish the “Military Pro Bono Program” which would provide pro bono legal representation in various areas of civil law to active-duty members of the Armed Forces, the Reserve components, members of the National Guard, and veterans. Attorneys on a volunteer basis would represent these individuals in various civil law cases including, but not limited to, family law, estate planning, immigration law, employment law, debtor-creditor law and military administrative law.

The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), would adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the bill applies to active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces and a reserve component thereof, including the National Guard, and veterans.

As amended, this bill is identical to A2527(1R), which was also released by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

1. Clarify that the bill applies to active-duty members of the Armed Forces, the Reserve components, members of the National Guard, and veterans.
2. Change the bill's synopsis in accordance with the amendments.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1388

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 21, 2022

The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1388.

This bill would establish the “Military Pro Bono Program” which would provide pro bono legal representation to active-duty service members and veterans of the military in various areas of civil law. Attorneys on a volunteer basis would represent these individuals in various civil law cases including, but not limited to, family law, estate planning, immigration law, employment law, debtor-creditor law and military administrative law.

The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," would adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2527

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman JAY WEBBER

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Piperno and Eulner

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Military Pro Bono Program” to provide pro bono legal representation to active-duty service members and veterans of military.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/19/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning military members and supplementing Title 38A
2 of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. There is established the "Military Pro Bono Program" in
8 New Jersey's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to
9 provide active-duty service members and veterans of the military
10 pro bono legal representation in various areas of civil law including,
11 but not limited to, family law, estate planning, employment law,
12 immigration law, debtor-creditor law and military administrative
13 law.

14

15 2. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and
16 Veterans' Affairs, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
17 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt rules and
18 regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

19

20 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

21

22

23

STATEMENT

24

25 This bill would establish the "Military Pro Bono Program" which
26 would provide pro bono legal representation to active-duty service
27 members and veterans of the military in various areas of civil law.
28 Attorneys on a volunteer basis would represent these individuals in
29 various civil law cases including, but not limited to, family law,
30 estate planning, immigration law, employment law, debtor-creditor
31 law and military administrative law.

32

33 The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and
34 Veterans' Affairs, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
35 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), would adopt rules and
regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2527

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2527.

This bill as amended would establish the “Military Pro Bono Program” which would provide pro bono legal representation in various areas of civil law to active-duty members of the Armed Forces, the Reserve components, members of the National Guard, and veterans. Attorneys on a volunteer basis would represent these individuals in various civil law cases including, but not limited to, family law, estate planning, immigration law, employment law, debtor-creditor law and military administrative law.

The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), would adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the bill applies to active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces and a reserve component thereof, including the National Guard, and veterans.

As amended this bill is identical to S1388 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

1. Clarify that the bill applies to active-duty members of the Armed Forces, the Reserve components, members of the National Guard, and veterans.
2. Change the bill’s synopsis in accordance with the amendments.

SENATE BILL NO. 1388
(First Reprint)

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 1388 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would task the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs ("DMAVA" or "Department") with establishing a pro bono legal representation program within the Department. The purpose of the program is to provide pro bono legal representation to active-duty service members and veterans of the military in various areas of civil law, including employment law, estate planning, and family law.

Military service members often face civil legal issues that create various obstacles to their health and financial stability. I fully support ensuring service members are aware of available resources and can readily access them, including legal representation, especially in times of need. I commend the bill's sponsors for recognizing that our service members should be able to obtain representation from experienced attorneys in a variety of areas of law on a pro bono basis.

However, I am concerned that the bill as currently drafted cannot be implemented effectively. DMAVA does not have the capacity to identify attorneys in different areas of the law, as that is not within the Department's area of expertise. The Department does, though, have the ability to provide information relating to the broad range of pro bono legal services already in existence that are available to assist active-duty service members and veterans.

I recommend amending the language in the bill to reflect that DMAVA will obtain and publish information about programs and organizations that can provide pro bono legal representation in

areas of civil law, allowing our service members to readily access information regarding pro bono legal service providers.

Therefore, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 1388 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 7:</u>	Delete in its entirety
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 8:</u>	Delete "New Jersey's" and insert "The"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 8:</u>	Delete "to" and insert "shall"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 9:</u>	After "provide" insert "information to"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 11:</u>	After "military" insert "about available programs and organizations that provide"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 12:</u>	After "representation" insert "to active-duty members and veterans"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 15:</u>	After "law." insert "The Department shall make this information, which shall include a list of participating pro bono legal service providers, including law firms or attorneys, available on its website."
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Lines 17-20:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 2, Section 3, Line 22:</u>	Delete "3." and insert "2."

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

02/2/2023

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

S-646/A-823 (O'Scanlon, Johnson/Timberlake, Mejia, Reynolds-Jackson) - Requires NJTA and SJTA to check E-ZPass database before issuing E-ZPa

A-3523/S-2305 (Benson, Stanley, Conaway/Gopal, Greenstein) - Requires health insurers to cover colorectal cancer screenings recommended by Unite Task Force and eliminates cost-sharing requirements for certain colonoscopies

The Governor conditionally vetoed the following bill:

S-1388/A-2527 (Singer, A.M. Bucco/Murphy, Webber, Tully) – CONDITIONAL – Establishes “Military Pro Bono Program” to provide pro bono legal repre members of Armed Forces, Reserve components, members of National Guard, and veterans

[Copy of Statement](#)