



**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**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:** Yes

"Korea, Vietnam vets now eligible for high school diplomas," The Press, 8-24-10

"More N.J. veterans in line for high school diplomas," Asbury Park Press, 8-24-10

"More N.J. veterans in line for diplomas," CourierNews, 8-24-10

"Diploma program for veterans grows," The Record, 8-24-10

"More vets eligible for diplomas," The Star-Ledger, 8-24-10

"Christie signs bills honoring veterans," The Philadelphia Inquirer, 8-24-10

"Governor Signs Four Veterans-related Bills Into Law," NewJersey101.5 FM. 8-24-10

"Christie touts veterans aid, honors bill package in visit to South Jersey," Gloucester County Times, 8-24-10

"Christie signs bills to honor New Jersey military veterans," NewJerseyNewstoom.com, 8-24-10

"Christie signs trio of vet bills," Courier-Post, 8-24-10

LAW

**ASSEMBLY, No. 515**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**214th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2010 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JOHN F. AMODEO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblyman VINCENT J. POLISTINA**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblyman JACK CONNERS**

**District 7 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Rumpf, Webber, Assemblywoman Vandervalk,  
Assemblymen Rible, Chiappone, Assemblywoman Voss, Assemblyman  
Prieto, Assemblywomen Tucker and Gove**

**SYNOPSIS**

Expands the provisions of Operation Recognition to veterans of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/14/2010)**

A515 AMODEO, POLISTINA

2

1 AN ACT concerning Operation Recognition in the Department of  
2 Education and amending P.L.2001, c.302.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2001, c.302 (c.18A:7C-4.1) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. The Department of Education, in consultation with the  
10 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, shall establish a  
11 program which shall be known as "Operation Recognition." The  
12 purpose of Operation Recognition is to award State-endorsed high  
13 school diplomas to **[World War I and World War II]** eligible  
14 veterans who left high school prior to graduation to enter United  
15 States military service.

16 b. A person shall be eligible to receive a State-endorsed diploma  
17 under Operation Recognition if the person:

18 (1) is an honorably discharged World War I veteran who served  
19 between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 **[or]**, an honorably  
20 discharged World War II veteran who served between September  
21 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946, an honorably discharged veteran  
22 of the Korean conflict who served between June 23, 1950 and  
23 January 31, 1955, or an honorably discharged veteran of the  
24 Vietnam conflict who served between December 31, 1960 and May  
25 7, 1975; and

26 (2) attended a high school in the State but left prior to graduation  
27 in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States, and did  
28 not receive a high school diploma as a consequence of such service.

29 A State-endorsed diploma may be issued under Operation  
30 Recognition posthumously. A veteran who meets the eligibility  
31 criteria set forth in this section and who passed the General  
32 Educational Development Test, GED, may also receive a State-  
33 endorsed diploma under Operation Recognition.

34 c. A veteran who meets the eligibility criteria set forth in  
35 subsection b. of this section may apply to the Department of  
36 Education to receive a State-endorsed high school diploma. In the  
37 case of a veteran who meets the eligibility criteria set forth in  
38 subsection b. of this section but who is deceased, the family of the  
39 veteran may apply to the department to receive a State-endorsed  
40 high school diploma on behalf of the veteran. Upon approval of an  
41 application, the department shall issue a State-endorsed high school  
42 diploma to the veteran or the veteran's family, as appropriate. The  
43 diploma shall indicate the veteran's high school of attendance.

44 d. The Department of Education, in cooperation with the  
45 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, shall:

**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 (1) develop an application procedure for obtaining a State-  
2 endorsed high school diploma under Operation Recognition,  
3 including a method for verifying military service and the high  
4 school which the veteran attended prior to military service;

5 (2) distribute applications for participation by veterans in  
6 Operation Recognition to school districts and to local veterans'  
7 organizations throughout the State; and

8 (3) provide information to any school district that is interested in  
9 hosting a diploma ceremony on or around Veterans' Day for  
10 veterans who received State-endorsed high school diplomas  
11 pursuant to Operation Recognition and attended a high school  
12 within the district.

13 e. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means an  
14 honorably discharged officer, soldier, sailor, marine, airman, nurse  
15 or army field clerk who served in the active military or naval  
16 service of the United States in the wars and conflicts listed in  
17 subsection b. of this section. A "veteran" also means any honorably  
18 discharged member of the American Merchant Marine or the United  
19 States Coast Guard who served during **[World War I or World War**  
20 **II]** the wars and conflicts listed in subsection b. of this section.

21 (cf: P.L.2001, c.302, s.1)

22

23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

24

25

26

#### STATEMENT

27

28 "Operation Recognition" is a program which was established in  
29 2002 in the Department of Education for the purpose of awarding  
30 State-endorsed high school diplomas to World War I and World  
31 War II veterans who attended New Jersey high schools but left prior  
32 to graduation in order to enter United States military service. This  
33 bill will expand the provisions of the program to include veterans of  
34 the Korean conflict and the Vietnam conflict.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 515**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 13, 2010

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly, No. 515.

“Operation Recognition” is a program which was established in 2002 in the Department of Education for the purpose of awarding State-endorsed high school diplomas to World War I and World War II veterans who attended New Jersey high schools but left prior to graduation in order to enter United States military service. This bill will expand the provisions of the program to include veterans of the Korean conflict and the Vietnam conflict.

This bill is identical to Senate, No. 1024 of 2010-2011.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2010-2011 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 515**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 3, 2010

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 515.

“Operation Recognition” is a program which was established in 2002 in the Department of Education for the purpose of awarding State-endorsed high school diplomas to World War I and World War II veterans who attended New Jersey high schools but left prior to graduation in order to enter United States military service. This bill will expand the provisions of the program to include veterans of the Korean conflict and the Vietnam conflict.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate No. 1024, which was also reported by the committee on this same date.

# SENATE, No. 1024

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 4, 2010

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator CHRISTOPHER J. CONNORS**

**District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)**

**Senator JEFF VAN DREW**

**District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Beach, Madden, O'Toole, Turner and Whelan**

**SYNOPSIS**

Expands the provisions of Operation Recognition to veterans of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/22/2010)**



1 AN ACT concerning Operation Recognition in the Department of  
2 Education and amending P.L.2001, c.302.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2001, c.302 (c.18A:7C-4.1) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. The Department of Education, in consultation with the  
10 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, shall establish a  
11 program which shall be known as "Operation Recognition." The  
12 purpose of Operation Recognition is to award State-endorsed high  
13 school diplomas to **[World War I and World War II]** eligible  
14 veterans who left high school prior to graduation to enter United  
15 States military service.

16 b. A person shall be eligible to receive a State-endorsed  
17 diploma under Operation Recognition if the person:

18 (1) is an honorably discharged World War I veteran who served  
19 between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 **[or]**, an honorably  
20 discharged World War II veteran who served between September  
21 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946, an honorably discharged veteran  
22 of the Korean conflict who served between June 23, 1950 and  
23 January 31, 1955, or an honorably discharged veteran of the  
24 Vietnam conflict who served between December 31, 1960 and May  
25 7, 1975; and

26 (2) attended a high school in the State but left prior to  
27 graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United  
28 States, and did not receive a high school diploma as a consequence  
29 of such service.

30 A State-endorsed diploma may be issued under Operation  
31 Recognition posthumously. A veteran who meets the eligibility  
32 criteria set forth in this section and who passed the General  
33 Educational Development Test, GED, may also receive a State-  
34 endorsed diploma under Operation Recognition.

35 c. A veteran who meets the eligibility criteria set forth in  
36 subsection b. of this section may apply to the Department of  
37 Education to receive a State-endorsed high school diploma. In the  
38 case of a veteran who meets the eligibility criteria set forth in  
39 subsection b. of this section but who is deceased, the family of the  
40 veteran may apply to the department to receive a State-endorsed  
41 high school diploma on behalf of the veteran. Upon approval of an  
42 application, the department shall issue a State-endorsed high school  
43 diploma to the veteran or the veteran's family, as appropriate. The  
44 diploma shall indicate the veteran's high school of attendance.

**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 d. The Department of Education, in cooperation with the  
2 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, shall:

3 (1) develop an application procedure for obtaining a State-  
4 endorsed high school diploma under Operation Recognition,  
5 including a method for verifying military service and the high  
6 school which the veteran attended prior to military service;

7 (2) distribute applications for participation by veterans in  
8 Operation Recognition to school districts and to local veterans'  
9 organizations throughout the State; and

10 (3) provide information to any school district that is interested  
11 in hosting a diploma ceremony on or around Veterans' Day for  
12 veterans who received State-endorsed high school diplomas  
13 pursuant to Operation Recognition and attended a high school  
14 within the district.

15 e. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means an  
16 honorably discharged officer, soldier, sailor, marine, airman, nurse  
17 or army field clerk who served in the active military or naval  
18 service of the United States in the wars and conflicts listed in  
19 subsection b. of this section. A "veteran" also means any honorably  
20 discharged member of the American Merchant Marine or the United  
21 States Coast Guard who served during **【World War I or World War**  
22 **II】** the wars and conflicts listed in subsection b. of this section.

23 (cf: P.L.2001, c.302, s.1)

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25 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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31 2002 in the Department of Education for the purpose of awarding  
32 State-endorsed high school diplomas to World War I and World  
33 War II veterans who attended New Jersey high schools but left prior  
34 to graduation in order to enter United States military service. This  
35 bill will expand the provisions of the program to include veterans of  
36 the Korean conflict and the Vietnam conflict.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1024**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 3, 2010

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 1024.

“Operation Recognition” is a program which was established in 2002 in the Department of Education for the purpose of awarding State-endorsed high school diplomas to World War I and World War II veterans who attended New Jersey high schools but left prior to graduation in order to enter United States military service. This bill will expand the provisions of the program to include veterans of the Korean conflict and the Vietnam conflict.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 515, which also was reported by the committee on this same date.