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**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," NewJerseyNewsroom.com, 8-24-10

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

LAW/RWH

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1944**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**214th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2010

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JACK CONNERS**

**District 7 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Assemblyman PAUL D. MORIARTY**

**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

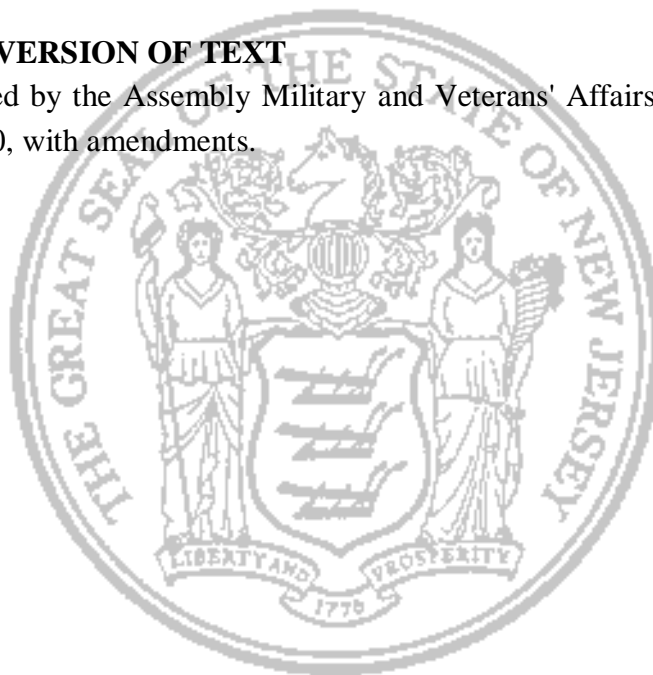
**Assemblyman Rumpf, Assemblywoman Gove, Assemblymen Chivukula,  
Conaway, Senators Connors and Girgenti**

**SYNOPSIS**

Changes membership requirements of the Veterans' Services Council.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee on  
May 13, 2010, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/29/2010)**

1 AN ACT concerning the membership of the Veterans' Services  
2 Council and amending P.L.1948, c.448.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 22 of P.L.1948, c.448 (C.13:1B-20) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 22. There shall be within the Department of Military and  
10 Veterans' Affairs, a Veterans' Services Council which shall consist  
11 of **[nine]** twelve members and shall include no less than two  
12 women. The Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall serve  
13 as a nonvoting ex-officio member. Each member of the council  
14 shall be a veteran, and shall be appointed by the Governor, with the  
15 advice and consent of the Senate, for a term of four years, but for a  
16 term of three years for a term beginning after the effective date of  
17 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and shall  
18 serve until his successor has been appointed and has qualified,  
19 except that of the first appointments **[hereunder]** pursuant to  
20 P.L.1948, c.448, two shall be for a term of one year, two for two  
21 years, two for three years, and three for four years, and of the two  
22 members first appointed pursuant to P.L. , c. (pending before the  
23 Legislature as this bill), one shall serve for a term of two years and  
24 one shall serve for a term of three years. At no time shall a member  
25 be allowed to serve more than two terms in the aggregate. All  
26 appointments to the council shall be made in consultation with the  
27 leaders of all federally-chartered veterans' organizations in the  
28 State.

29 **[**Each Governor shall designate one of the members of the  
30 council as chairman of such council. Any member of the council so  
31 designated shall serve as such chairman at the pleasure of the  
32 Governor designating him and until his successor has been  
33 designated.**]** The members shall nominate a chairman by majority  
34 vote of the members, and six members shall constitute a majority.  
35 The nomination shall be sent to the Governor for approval. The  
36 chairman of the council shall be its presiding officer and shall serve  
37 until a successor has been nominated by the council and approved  
38 by the Governor.

39 Any vacancies in the membership of said council occurring other  
40 than by expiration of term shall be filled by the Governor, with the  
41 advice and consent of the Senate, for the unexpired term only. Any  
42 member of the council may be removed from office by the  
43 Governor, for cause, upon notice and opportunity to be heard. Any  
44 member who shall be absent for three meetings of the council

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AMV committee amendments adopted May 13, 2010.

1 without being excused for good cause by the chairman '【shall】  
2 may' , upon recommendation to the Governor by a majority vote of  
3 the members of the council, be removed from office by the  
4 Governor.

5 The members of the council shall serve without compensation  
6 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
7 performance of their duties.

8 (cf: P.L.1988, c.138, s.21)

9

10 2. Section 23 of P.L.1948, c.448 (C.13:1B-21) is amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 23. The Veterans' Services Council shall, subject to the  
13 approval of the commissioner, formulate comprehensive policies for  
14 the co-ordination of all services for the benefit of 【war】 veterans  
15 and their dependents.

16 The council shall also:

17 a. Consult with and advise the commissioner and the director  
18 of the Division of Veterans' Services with respect to the work of the  
19 division.

20 b. Study the activities of the Division of Veterans' Services and  
21 hold hearings with respect thereto as it may deem necessary or  
22 desirable.

23 c. Report to the Governor and the Legislature annually, and at  
24 such other times as it may deem in the public interest, with respect  
25 to its findings and conclusions.

26 (cf: P.L.1948, c.448, s.23)

27

28 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1944**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**214th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2010

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JACK CONNERS**

**District 7 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Rumpf and Assemblywoman Gove**

**SYNOPSIS**

Changes membership requirements of the Veterans' Services Council.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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

A1944 CONNERS, TUCKER

2

1 AN ACT concerning the membership of the Veterans' Services  
2 Council and amending P.L.1948, c.448.

3

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

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7 1. Section 22 of P.L.1948, c.448 (C.13:1B-20) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 22. There shall be within the Department of Military and  
10 Veterans' Affairs, a Veterans' Services Council which shall consist  
11 of **[nine]** twelve members and shall include no less than two  
12 women. The Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall serve  
13 as a nonvoting ex-officio member. Each member of the council  
14 shall be a veteran, and shall be appointed by the Governor, with the  
15 advice and consent of the Senate, for a term of four years, but for a  
16 term of three years for a term beginning after the effective date of  
17 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and shall  
18 serve until his successor has been appointed and has qualified,  
19 except that of the first appointments **[hereunder]** pursuant to  
20 P.L.1948, c.448, two shall be for a term of one year, two for two  
21 years, two for three years, and three for four years, and of the two  
22 members first appointed pursuant to P.L. , c. (pending before the  
23 Legislature as this bill), one shall serve for a term of two years and  
24 one shall serve for a term of three years. At no time shall a member  
25 be allowed to serve more than two terms in the aggregate. All  
26 appointments to the council shall be made in consultation with the  
27 leaders of all federally-chartered veterans' organizations in the  
28 State.

29 **[**Each Governor shall designate one of the members of the  
30 council as chairman of such council. Any member of the council so  
31 designated shall serve as such chairman at the pleasure of the  
32 Governor designating him and until his successor has been  
33 designated.**]** The members shall nominate a chairman by majority  
34 vote of the members, and six members shall constitute a majority.  
35 The nomination shall be sent to the Governor for approval. The  
36 chairman of the council shall be its presiding officer and shall serve  
37 until a successor has been nominated by the council and approved  
38 by the Governor.

39 Any vacancies in the membership of said council occurring other  
40 than by expiration of term shall be filled by the Governor, with the  
41 advice and consent of the Senate, for the unexpired term only. Any  
42 member of the council may be removed from office by the  
43 Governor, for cause, upon notice and opportunity to be heard. Any  
44 member who shall be absent for three meetings of the council  
45 without being excused for good cause by the chairman shall, upon

**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 recommendation to the Governor by a majority vote of the members  
2 of the council, be removed from office by the Governor.

3 The members of the council shall serve without compensation  
4 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
5 performance of their duties.

6 (cf: P.L.1988, c.138, s.21)

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10 23. The Veterans' Services Council shall, subject to the  
11 approval of the commissioner, formulate comprehensive policies for  
12 the co-ordination of all services for the benefit of **[war]** veterans  
13 and their dependents.

14 The council shall also:

15 a. Consult with and advise the commissioner and the director  
16 of the Division of Veterans' Services with respect to the work of the  
17 division.

18 b. Study the activities of the Division of Veterans' Services and  
19 hold hearings with respect thereto as it may deem necessary or  
20 desirable.

21 c. Report to the Governor and the Legislature annually, and at  
22 such other times as it may deem in the public interest, with respect  
23 to its findings and conclusions.

24 (cf: P.L.1948, c.448, s.23)

25

26 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

27

28

29

#### STATEMENT

30

31 This bill changes the membership of the Veterans' Services  
32 Council from nine members to twelve members, changes the term  
33 of membership from four years to three years, and limits the number  
34 of terms of office to two terms in the aggregate. It also requires the  
35 members to nominate a chairman for approval by the Governor;  
36 currently, the Governor designates a chairman. Additionally, if a  
37 member misses three meetings without being excused for good  
38 cause by the chairman, the council will vote to recommend to the  
39 Governor that the member be removed from office.

40 Finally, the term "war veteran" is changed to "veteran" to  
41 encompass the conflicts and emergencies that the Armed Forces are  
42 engaged in today.



ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 1944**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 13, 2010

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly, No. 1944.

This bill changes the membership of the Veterans' Services Council from nine members to twelve members, changes the term of membership from four years to three years, and limits the number of terms of office to two terms in the aggregate. It also requires the members to nominate a chairman for approval by the Governor; currently, the Governor designates a chairman. Additionally, if a member misses three meetings without being excused for good cause by the chairman, the council will vote to recommend to the Governor that the member be removed from office.

Finally, the term "war veteran" is changed to "veteran" to encompass the conflicts and emergencies that the Armed Forces are engaged in today.

Committee Amendments

The committee amended the bill by changing the requirement that upon recommendation of the council to remove from office any member that misses three meetings without being excused for good cause, the Governor must remove that person, to a permissible option by the Governor to remove that person from office.

**SENATE, No. 1493**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**214th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2010

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator CHRISTOPHER J. CONNORS**  
**District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)**  
**Senator JOHN A. GIRGENTI**  
**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Changes membership requirements of Veterans' Services Council.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/12/2010)**

1 AN ACT concerning the membership of the Veterans' Services  
2 Council and amending P.L.1948, c.448.

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

6  
7 1. Section 22 of P.L.1948, c.448 (C.13:1B-20) is amended to  
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10 Veterans' Affairs, a Veterans' Services Council which shall consist  
11 of **[nine]** twelve members and shall include no less than two  
12 women. The Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall serve  
13 as a nonvoting ex-officio member. Each member of the council  
14 shall be a veteran, and shall be appointed by the Governor, with the  
15 advice and consent of the Senate, for a term of four years, but for a  
16 term of three years for a term beginning after the effective date of  
17 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and shall  
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41 advice and consent of the Senate, for the unexpired term only. Any  
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18 b. Study the activities of the Division of Veterans' Services and  
19 hold hearings with respect thereto as it may deem necessary or  
20 desirable.

21 c. Report to the Governor and the Legislature annually, and at  
22 such other times as it may deem in the public interest, with respect  
23 to its findings and conclusions.

24 (cf: P.L.1948, c.448, s.23)

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41 encompass the conflicts and emergencies that the Armed Forces are  
42 engaged in today.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1493**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 15, 2010

The Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate, No. 1493.

This bill changes the membership of the Veterans' Services Council from nine members to twelve members, changes the term of membership from four years to three years, and limits the number of terms of office to two terms in the aggregate. It also requires the members to nominate a chairman for approval by the Governor; currently, the Governor designates a chairman. Additionally, if a member misses three meetings without being excused for good cause by the chairman, the council will vote to recommend to the Governor that the member be removed from office.

Finally, the term "war veteran" is changed to "veteran" to encompass the conflicts and emergencies that the Armed Forces are engaged in today.

Senate Bill No. 1493 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1944 of 2010.

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1493**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Senator CONNORS)

ADOPTED: MAY 20, 2010

This Senate amendment changes the requirement that upon recommendation of the council to remove from office any member that misses three meetings without being excused for good cause, the Governor must remove that person, to a permissible option by the Governor to remove that person from office.

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A1944/S1493

## Governor Christie Signs Series of Bills to Honor New Jersey's Military Veterans

Monday, August 23, 2010 Tags: [Other](#)

**Trenton, NJ** - Governor Chris Christie today signed a package of bills recognizing the loyal service, bravery and sacrifice of New Jersey's active duty service men and women and retired military veterans. The bills signed today - A-1945, A-515, A-1944 - honor the service of members of the New Jersey National Guard, recognize veterans of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, and expand the membership of the Veteran's Services Council. S-795, previously signed into law and recognized today by the Governor, pays tribute to the sacrifices of Vietnam Veterans from South Jersey in Southern New Jersey.

"I am proud to have the opportunity to honor the service of New Jersey's military service members and veterans by signing these bills today. Our state's servicemen, servicewomen and their families have bravely and selflessly sacrificed in defense of our nation and our values," said Governor Christie. "It is only fitting that we take every opportunity to recognize and repay, in every way we are able, all that they have given to us. These bills are just a small token of our gratitude and appreciation for everything they have done for our country."

"These bills demonstrate New Jersey's ongoing commitment to the men and women who have served this nation in uniform," said Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General. "From the expansion of Operation Recognition to include Korean and Vietnam Veterans, to the special award for service in the New Jersey National Guard Honor Guard, these bills honor all who served."

The first bill, A-1945, creates a New Jersey Honor Guard Ribbon for active members of the New Jersey National Guard, Honor Guard Retiree members and Contracted Civilian Buglers who have served to honor deceased veterans at Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery. Eligibility for the Honor Guard Ribbon is determined by the Adjutant General.

The first recipients of the Honor Guard Ribbon are SGT Allain Batong, SGT Damont Brown, SGT William Camp, SPC Lawrence Davidson, SFC Raymond Denson, SGT Laseric Diaz, SSG Gregory Flynn, SPC Joseph Harang, CW4 (Ret) Kenneth Langer, SSG Rachell Lewellen, 1Lt Angel Perez, PFC Roy Pierson, SPC Raheem Rowell, TSgt Christopher Schauers, MSG (Ret) Karl Tomaszewski, MSG Lavona Toplyn, SPC Asim Williams, and A1C Katherine Yunes.

Primary sponsors of the bill are Assemblyman Jack Conners (D-Burlington, Camden), Assemblywoman Cleopatra G. Tucker (D-Essex), Assemblyman Gilbert "Whip" L. Wilson (D-Camden, Gloucester) and Assemblyman Paul D. Moriarity (D-Camden, Gloucester).

The second bill signed by Governor Christie, A-515, expands Operation Recognition to include veterans of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. The program currently awards state-endorsed high school diplomas to eligible World War I and World War II veterans who left high school before graduation to enter the U.S. military.

Primary sponsors of A-515 include Assemblyman John F. Amodeo (R-Atlantic), Assemblyman Vincent J. Polistina (R-Atlantic), Assemblyman Jack Conners (D-Burlington, Camden), Assemblyman Matthew W. Milam (D-Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland) and Assemblyman Paul D. Moriarity (D-Camden, Gloucester).

Another bill, A-1944, changes the membership requirements of the Veteran's Services Council, increasing membership from 9 to 12 and requiring there be at least two women members. The Council is responsible for formulating policies for the coordination of all services benefiting war veterans and their dependents.

Primary legislative sponsors of A-1944 include Assemblyman Jack Conners (D-Burlington, Camden), Assemblywoman Cleopatra G. Tucker (D-Essex) and Assemblyman Paul D. Moriarity (D-Camden, Gloucester).

Governor Christie also recognized S-795, which he previously signed. That new law pays tribute to the sacrifices of Vietnam Veterans from South Jersey by naming a portion of Route 47 in Glassboro Gloucester County as the "South Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Highway."

Primary sponsors of S-795 include Senator Fred H. Madden, Jr. (D-Camden and Gloucester), and Senator Stephen M. Sweeney (D-Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester) as well as Assemblyman Jack Conners (D-Burlington and Camden), Assemblyman Herb Conaway, Jr. (D-Burlington and Camden) and Assemblyman Paul D. Moriarity (D-Camden and Gloucester).

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