

# 18A:7C-4.1

## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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**LAWS OF:** 2001                    **CHAPTER:** 302  
**NJSA:** 18A:7C-4.1      (“Operation Recognition”: Diplomas for veterans)  
**BILL NO:** A14                    (Substituted for S2509)

**SPONSOR(S):** Collins and Kelly

**DATE INTRODUCED:** May 22, 2000

**COMMITTEE:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** Education  
**SENATE:** Senior Citizens

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** June 29, 2000  
**SENATE:** November 26, 2001

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** January 2, 2002

### FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (1st reprint enacted)

(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

**A14**

**SPONSORS STATEMENT:** (Begins on page 3 of original bill)                    Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                    **ASSEMBLY:**                    Yes

**SENATE:**                    Yes

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:**                    No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:**                    No

**S2509**

**SPONSORS STATEMENT:** (Begins on page 3 of original bill)                    Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:** **ASSEMBLY:** No

**SENATE:** Yes

Identical to Senate Statement for A14

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** No

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No

**ASSEMBLY, No. 14**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**209th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MAY 22, 2000

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JACK COLLINS**

**District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)**

**Assemblyman JOHN V. KELLY**

**District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Operation Recognition to provide State-endorsed high school diplomas to veterans who left high school to serve in the armed forces during World War I or World War II.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing Operation Recognition in the Department of  
2 Education and supplementing chapter 7C of Title 18A of the New  
3 Jersey Statutes.

4

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

7

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

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

16 (1) is an honorably discharged World War I veteran who served  
17 between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 or an honorably  
18 discharged World War II veteran who served between September 16,  
19 1940 and December 31, 1946; and

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

23 A State-endorsed diploma may be issued under Operation  
24 Recognition posthumously. A veteran who meets the eligibility  
25 criteria set forth in this section and who passed the General  
26 Educational Development Test, GED, may also receive a State-  
27 endorsed diploma under Operation Recognition.

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

38 d. The Department of Education, in cooperation with the  
39 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, shall:

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

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

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

8  
9 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

10  
11  
12 STATEMENT

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14 This bill requires the Department of Education, in consultation with  
15 the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to establish a  
16 program which shall be known as "Operation Recognition." The  
17 purpose of Operation Recognition is to award State-endorsed high  
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24 September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946. In addition, the person  
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26 graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States.  
27 The diploma may be issued posthumously. A veteran who passed the  
28 General Educational Development Test, GED, may also receive a  
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30 The bill requires the Department of Education, in cooperation with  
31 the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to: (1) develop an  
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33 diploma, including a method for verifying military service and the high  
34 school which the veteran attended prior to military service; (2)  
35 distribute applications for participation in Operation Recognition to  
36 school districts and to local veterans' organizations throughout the  
37 State; and (3) provide information to any school district that is  
38 interested in hosting a diploma ceremony on or around Veterans' Day  
39 for veterans who received diplomas pursuant to Operation Recognition  
40 and attended a high school within the district.

41 Many young men and women from this State and across this  
42 country left friends, family and high school to serve in the armed  
43 forces during World War I and World War II. They answered the call  
44 to duty and made a great sacrifice for our county. Their sacrifice  
45 ensured our freedom and shaped the course of history throughout the

**A14 COLLINS, KELLY**

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1 world. In recognition of the outstanding contribution of these World  
2 War I and World War II veterans, this bill would provide that veterans  
3 who interrupted their high school years in order to serve this country  
4 will receive State-endorsed high school diplomas. This is a small,  
5 overdue gesture of our gratitude for the sacrifices these individuals  
6 made in the name of freedom.

# ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 14**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 22, 2000

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 14 with committee amendments.

As amended by committee, this bill requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to establish a program which shall be known as "Operation Recognition." The purpose of Operation Recognition is to award State-endorsed high school diplomas to World War I and World War II veterans who left high school prior to graduation to enter United States military service including the American Merchant Marines and the United States Coast Guard.

To be eligible to receive a State-endorsed diploma under Operation Recognition, a person must be an honorably discharged World War I veteran who served between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 or an honorably discharged World War II veteran who served between September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946. In addition, the person must have attended a high school in the State, which he left prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States. The diploma may be issued posthumously. A veteran who passed the General Educational Development Test, GED, may also receive a diploma under Operation Recognition.

The bill requires the Department of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to: (1) develop an application procedure for obtaining a State-endorsed high school diploma, including a method for verifying military service and the high school which the veteran attended prior to military service; (2) distribute applications for participation in Operation Recognition to school districts and to local veterans' organizations throughout the State; and (3) provide information to any school district that is interested in hosting a diploma ceremony on or around Veterans' Day for veterans who received diplomas pursuant to Operation Recognition and attended a high school within the district.

The committee amended the bill to clarify that individuals who served in the American Merchant Marines and the United States Coast Guard are also eligible for the benefits of Operation Recognition.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

The states of California, Florida, Iowa, Idaho, Nebraska, North Carolina, Louisiana, Minnesota, and Texas have implemented Operation Recognition Programs for World War II veterans.



[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 14**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**209th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MAY 22, 2000

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JACK COLLINS**

**District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)**

**Assemblyman JOHN V. KELLY**

**District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

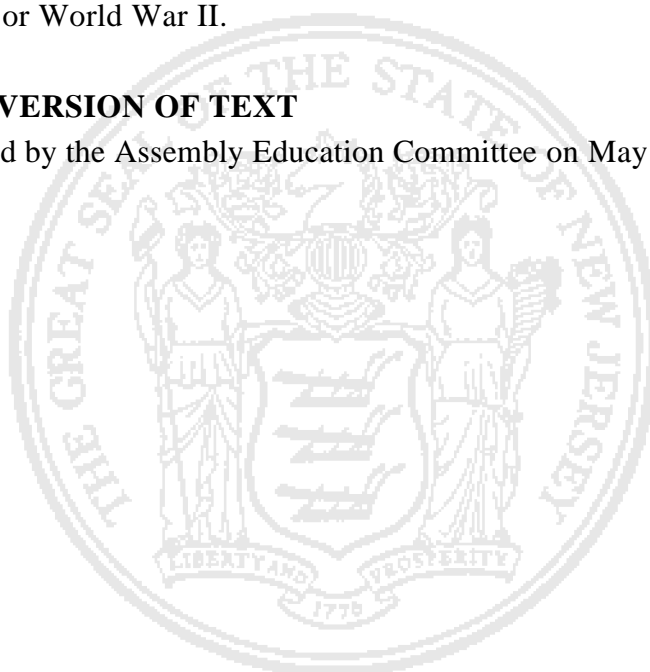
**Assemblymen Felice, LeFevre, Asselta, Assemblywoman Previte, Senators  
Cafiero, Inverso and Allen**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Operation Recognition to provide State-endorsed high school diplomas to veterans who left high school to serve in the armed forces during World War I or World War II.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on May 22, 2000, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/27/2001)**

1 AN ACT establishing Operation Recognition in the Department of  
2 Education and supplementing chapter 7C of Title 18A of the New  
3 Jersey Statutes.

4

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

7

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

14 b. A person shall be eligible to receive a State-endorsed diploma  
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17 between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 or an honorably  
18 discharged World War II veteran who served between September 16,  
19 1940 and December 31, 1946; and

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

23 A State-endorsed diploma may be issued under Operation  
24 Recognition posthumously. A veteran who meets the eligibility  
25 criteria set forth in this section and who passed the General  
26 Educational Development Test, GED, may also receive a State-  
27 endorsed diploma under Operation Recognition.

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

38 d. The Department of Education, in cooperation with the  
39 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, shall:

40 (1) develop an application procedure for obtaining a State-  
41 endorsed high school diploma under Operation Recognition, including  
42 a method for verifying military service and the high school which the

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and 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 AED committee amendments adopted May 22, 2000.**

1 veteran attended prior to military service;

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

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

9 <sup>1</sup>e. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means an honorably  
10 discharged officer, soldier, sailor, marine, airman, nurse or army field  
11 clerk who served in the active military or naval service of the United  
12 States in the wars listed in subsection b. of this section. A "veteran"  
13 also means any honorably discharged member of the American  
14 Merchant Marine or the United States Coast Guard who served during  
15 World War I or World War II.<sup>1</sup>

16

17 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 14**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: AUGUST 23, 2001

The Senate Senior Citizens, Veterans Affairs and Human Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 14.

This bill requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to establish a program which shall be known as "Operation Recognition." The purpose of Operation Recognition is to award State-endorsed high school diplomas to World War I and World War II veterans who left high school prior to graduation to enter United States military service, including the American Merchant Marines and the United States Coast Guard.

To be eligible to receive a State-endorsed diploma under Operation Recognition, a person must be an honorably discharged World War I veteran who served between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 or an honorably discharged World War II veteran who served between September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946. Under the provisions of the bill, veteran means an honorably discharged officer, soldier, sailor, marine, airman, nurse or army field clerk who served in the active military or naval service of the United States during these wars and also includes any honorably discharged member of the American Merchant Marine or the United States Coast Guard who served during World War I or World War II.

In addition, the person must have attended a high school in the State, which he left prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States. The diploma may be issued posthumously. A veteran who passed the General Educational Development Test, GED, may also receive a diploma under Operation Recognition.

The bill requires the Department of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to: (1) develop an application procedure for obtaining a State-endorsed high school diploma, including a method for verifying military service and the high school which the veteran attended prior to military service; (2) distribute applications for participation in Operation Recognition to school districts and to local veterans' organizations throughout the State; and (3) provide information to any school district that is

interested in hosting a diploma ceremony on or around Veterans' Day for veterans who received diplomas pursuant to Operation Recognition and attended a high school within the district.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2509 (Cafiero/Inverso), which the committee also reported favorably at this time.

# SENATE, No. 2509

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JAMES S. CAFIERO**

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

**Senator PETER A. INVERSO**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Allen**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Operation Recognition to provide State-endorsed high school diplomas to veterans who left high school to serve in the armed forces during World War I or World War II.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/27/2001)

S2509 CAFIERO, INVERSO

2

1 AN ACT establishing Operation Recognition in the Department of  
2 Education and supplementing chapter 7C of Title 18A of the New  
3 Jersey Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. a. The Department of Education, in consultation with the  
9 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, shall establish a program  
10 which shall be known as "Operation Recognition." The purpose of  
11 Operation Recognition is to award State-endorsed high school  
12 diplomas to World War I and World War II veterans who left high  
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14 b. A person shall be eligible to receive a State-endorsed diploma  
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17 between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 or an honorably  
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22 receive a high school diploma as a consequence of such service.

23 A State-endorsed diploma may be issued under Operation  
24 Recognition posthumously. A veteran who meets the eligibility  
25 criteria set forth in this section and who passed the General  
26 Educational Development Test, GED, may also receive a State-  
27 endorsed diploma under Operation Recognition.

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

38 d. The Department of Education, in cooperation with the  
39 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, shall:

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42 a method for verifying military service and the high school which the  
43 veteran attended prior to military service;

44 (2) distribute applications for participation by veterans in  
45 Operation Recognition to school districts and to local veterans'  
46 organizations throughout the State; and

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

5 e. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means an honorably  
6 discharged officer, soldier, sailor, marine, airman, nurse or army field  
7 clerk who served in the active military or naval service of the United  
8 States in the wars listed in subsection b. of this section. A "veteran"  
9 also means any honorably discharged member of the American  
10 Merchant Marine or the United States Coast Guard who served during  
11 World War I or World War II.

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13 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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15 STATEMENT

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18 This bill requires the Department of Education, in consultation with  
19 the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to establish a  
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46 and attended a high school within the district.



SENATE SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 2509**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: AUGUST 23, 2001

The Senate Senior Citizens, Veterans' Affairs and Human Services Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2509.

This bill requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to establish a program which shall be known as "Operation Recognition." The purpose of Operation Recognition is to award State-endorsed high school diplomas to World War I and World War II veterans who left high school prior to graduation to enter United States military service, including the American Merchant Marines and the United States Coast Guard.

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In addition, the person must have attended a high school in the State, which he left prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States. The diploma may be issued posthumously. A veteran who passed the General Educational Development Test, GED, may also receive a diploma under Operation Recognition.

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for veterans who received diplomas pursuant to Operation Recognition and attended a high school within the district.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 14 (1R) (Collins/Kelly), which the committee also reported favorably at this time.

P.L. 2001, CHAPTER 302, *approved January 2, 2002*  
Assembly, No. 14 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** establishing Operation Recognition in the Department of  
2 Education and supplementing chapter 7C of Title 18A of the New  
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

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33 to the department to receive a State-endorsed high school diploma on  
34 behalf of the veteran. Upon approval of an application, the department  
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36 veteran's family, as appropriate. The diploma shall indicate the  
37 veteran's high school of attendance.

38 d. The Department of Education, in cooperation with the  
39 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, shall:

40 (1) develop an application procedure for obtaining a State-

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and 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 AED committee amendments adopted May 22, 2000.

1 endorsed high school diploma under Operation Recognition, including  
2 a method for verifying military service and the high school which the  
3 veteran attended prior to military service;

4 (2) distribute applications for participation by veterans in  
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11 <sup>1</sup>e. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means an honorably  
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15 also means any honorably discharged member of the American  
16 Merchant Marine or the United States Coast Guard who served during  
17 World War I or World War II.<sup>1</sup>

18

19 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

20

21

22

23

24 Establishes Operation Recognition to provide State-endorsed high  
25 school diplomas to veterans who left high school to serve in the armed  
26 forces during World War I or World War II.

## CHAPTER 302

AN ACT establishing Operation Recognition in the Department of Education and supplementing chapter 7C of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

C.18A:7C-4.1 "Operation Recognition."

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

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

(1) is an honorably discharged World War I veteran who served between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 or an honorably discharged World War II veteran who served between September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 2, 2002.