

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

RWH/JA

P.L.2017, CHAPTER 57, *approved May 1, 2017*
Senate, No. 2856 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning services by county veterans' affairs offices to
2 Gold Star families and amending P.L.2010, c.11.

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.2010, c.11 (C.38A:3-28.1) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. a. (1) Upon receipt of the notice from the United States
10 Department of Defense of the death of a service member who resided
11 in this State and whose surviving beneficiary resides in this State, the
12 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall notify, no later than
13 '[five business day] ten working days', the appropriate county
14 veterans' affairs office ¹, or county designee,¹ and the appropriate
15 State veterans service office [and the] . The State office shall provide
16 the surviving beneficiary of a deceased service member with a
17 comprehensive packet containing information on all federal and State
18 benefits for which the surviving beneficiary may be eligible. The
19 department shall develop the packet and provide all State veterans
20 service offices with a supply of packets for distribution.

21 This section shall also apply when a deceased service member is
22 not a resident of this State, but whose surviving beneficiary is a
23 resident of this State, if that information is known.

24 (2) Every county veterans' affairs office shall have a designated
25 Gold Star family member liaison. The liaison may be a volunteer or a
26 Gold Star family member. The liaison shall, in conjunction with the
27 State veterans' service offices, assist Gold Star families to access the
28 services they are entitled to by providing information on State benefits,
29 Gold Star family organizations, and such other resources deemed
30 necessary and beneficial to a Gold Star family member.

31 b. For the purpose of this section:

32 "Child" means the individual who is a son or daughter by birth or
33 adoption.

34 "Deceased service member" means any member of the Armed
35 Forces of the United States or a Reserve component thereof or a
36 member of the National Guard who dies as a result of enemy action,
37 accident or disease while on federal active duty, including active duty
38 for training.

39 "Gold Star family member" means the spouse, domestic partner,
40 partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian, 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:

¹Senate SMV committee amendments adopted January 23, 2017.

1 other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood, or by
2 adoption.

3 "Parent" means the individual who is a father or mother by birth or
4 adoption.

5 "Spouse" means the individual to whom the deceased service
6 member was legally married at the time of the member's death.

7 "Surviving beneficiary" means the spouse, child or parent of a
8 deceased service member who resides in this State.

9 (cf: P.L.2010, c.11, s.1)

10

11 2. This act shall take effect on the 60th day next following
12 enactment, except that the Department of Military and Veterans'
13 Affairs and county veterans' affairs offices may take any
14 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
15 for the implementation of this act.

16

17

18

19

20 _____
21 Requires DMVA to notify county veterans' affairs office of
22 death of certain military service members; requires office to have
Gold Star liaison.

SENATE, No. 2856

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 A.R.Bucco and Van Drew

SYNOPSIS

Requires DMVA to notify county veterans' affairs office of death of certain military service members; requires office to have Gold Star liaison.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 AN ACT concerning services by county veterans' affairs offices to
2 Gold Star families and amending P.L.2010, c.11.

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.2010, c.11 (C.38A:3-28.1) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. (1) Upon receipt of the notice from the United States
10 Department of Defense of the death of a service member who
11 resided in this State and whose surviving beneficiary resides in this
12 State, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall notify,
13 no later than five business day, the appropriate county veterans'
14 affairs office and the appropriate State veterans service office **[and**
15 **the]** . The State office shall provide the surviving beneficiary of a
16 deceased service member with a comprehensive packet containing
17 information on all federal and State benefits for which the surviving
18 beneficiary may be eligible. The department shall develop the
19 packet and provide all State veterans service offices with a supply
20 of packets for distribution.

21 This section shall also apply when a deceased service member is
22 not a resident of this State, but whose surviving beneficiary is a
23 resident of this State, if that information is known.

24 (2) Every county veterans' affairs office shall have a designated
25 Gold Star family member liaison. The liaison may be a volunteer or
26 a Gold Star family member. The liaison shall, in conjunction with
27 the State veterans' service offices, assist Gold Star families to
28 access the services they are entitled to by providing information on
29 State benefits, Gold Star family organizations, and such other
30 resources deemed necessary and beneficial to a Gold Star family
31 member.

32 b. For the purpose of this section:

33 "Child" means the individual who is a son or daughter by birth or
34 adoption.

35 "Deceased service member" means any member of the Armed
36 Forces of the United States or a Reserve component thereof or a
37 member of the National Guard who dies as a result of enemy action,
38 accident or disease while on federal active duty, including active
39 duty for training.

40 "Gold Star family member" means the spouse, domestic partner,
41 partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian,
42 or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood, or by
43 adoption.

44 "Parent" means the individual who is a father or mother by birth
45 or adoption.

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 "Spouse" means the individual to whom the deceased service
2 member was legally married at the time of the member's death.

3 "Surviving beneficiary" means the spouse, child or parent of a
4 deceased service member who resides in this State.

5 (cf: P.L.2010, c.11, s.1)

6

7 2. This act shall take effect on the 60th day next following
8 enactment, except that the Department of Military and Veterans'
9 Affairs and county veterans' affairs offices may take any
10 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
11 for the implementation of this act.

12

13

14

STATEMENT

15

16 Under current law, the Department of Military and Veterans'
17 Affairs, when notified of the death of a military service member,
18 notifies the appropriate State veterans' service office of the service
19 member's death. This bill will require the department to also notify
20 the appropriate county veterans' affairs office of the service
21 member's death.

22 This bill also requires every county office to have a designated
23 Gold Star family liaison. The liaison would be a volunteer or a
24 Gold Star family member. The liaison will, with the State veterans'
25 service offices, assist Gold Star families to access the services they
26 are entitled by providing information on State benefits, Gold Star
27 family organizations, and such other resources deemed necessary
28 and beneficial to Gold Star families.

29 This bill defines a Gold Star family member as the spouse,
30 domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister,
31 child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the whole
32 or half blood, or by adoption, of a member of the armed services who
33 died while on active duty for the United States.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2856

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. 2856.

As amended, under current law, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, when notified of the death of a military service member, notifies the appropriate State veterans' service office of the service member's death. This bill will require the department to also notify the appropriate county veterans' affairs office of the service member's death within 10 working days of the service member's death.

This bill also requires every county office to have a designated Gold Star family liaison. The liaison would be a volunteer or a Gold Star family member. The liaison will, with the State veterans' service offices, assist Gold Star families to access the services they are entitled by providing information on State benefits, Gold Star family organizations, and such other resources deemed necessary and beneficial to Gold Star families.

This bill defines a Gold Star family member as the 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, of a member of the armed services who died while on active duty for the United States.

As amended, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4402 (1R) of the 2016-2017 session.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4402

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 15, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman DAVID P. RIBLE

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman PATRICIA EGAN JONES

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman R. BRUCE LAND

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblymen Mazzeo, DeAngelo, Assemblywoman Downey and
Assemblyman Chiaravalloti**

SYNOPSIS

Requires DMVA to notify county veterans' affairs office of death of certain military service members; requires office to have Gold Star liaison.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

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

1 AN ACT concerning services by county veterans' affairs offices to
2 Gold Star families and amending P.L.2010, c.11.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
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14 affairs office and the appropriate State veterans service office **[and**
15 **the]** . The State office shall provide the surviving beneficiary of a
16 deceased service member with a comprehensive packet containing
17 information on all federal and State benefits for which the surviving
18 beneficiary may be eligible. The department shall develop the
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22 not a resident of this State, but whose surviving beneficiary is a
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24 (2) Every county veterans' affairs office shall have a designated
25 Gold Star family member liaison. The liaison may be a volunteer or
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29 State benefits, Gold Star family organizations, and such other
30 resources deemed necessary and beneficial to a Gold Star family
31 member.

32 b. For the purpose of this section:

33 "Child" means the individual who is a son or daughter by birth or
34 adoption.

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36 Forces of the United States or a Reserve component thereof or a
37 member of the National Guard who dies as a result of enemy action,
38 accident or disease while on federal active duty, including active
39 duty for training.

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41 partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian,
42 or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood, or by
43 adoption.

44 "Parent" means the individual who is a father or mother by birth
45 or adoption.

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.

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2 member was legally married at the time of the member's death.

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4 deceased service member who resides in this State.

5 (cf: P.L.2010, c.11, s.1)

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8 enactment, except that the Department of Military and Veterans'
9 Affairs and county veterans' affairs offices may take any
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11 for the implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

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16 Under current law, the Department of Military and Veterans'
17 Affairs, when notified of the death of a military service member,
18 notifies the appropriate State veterans' service office of the service
19 member's death. This bill will require the department to also notify
20 the appropriate county veterans' affairs office of the service
21 member's death.

22 This bill also requires every county office to have a designated
23 Gold Star family liaison. The liaison would be a volunteer or a
24 Gold Star family member. The liaison will, with the State veterans'
25 service offices, assist Gold Star families to access the services they
26 are entitled by providing information on State benefits, Gold Star
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28 and beneficial to Gold Star families.

29 This bill defines a Gold Star family member as the spouse,
30 domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister,
31 child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the whole
32 or half blood, or by adoption, of a member of the armed services who
33 died while on active duty for the United States.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4402

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. 4402.

Under current law, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, when notified of the death of a military service member, notifies the appropriate State veterans' service office of the service member's death. As amended, this bill will require the department to also notify the appropriate county veterans' affairs office of the service member's death.

This bill also requires every county office to have a designated Gold Star family liaison. The liaison would be a volunteer or a Gold Star family member. The liaison will, with the State veterans' service offices, assist Gold Star families to access the services they are entitled by providing information on State benefits, Gold Star family organizations, and such other resources deemed necessary and beneficial to Gold Star families.

This bill defines a Gold Star family member as the 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, of a member of the armed services who died while on active duty for the United States.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to extend the notification period from five business days to ten working days. The committee also amended the bill to permit a county designee to receive notification from the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs so that the county veterans' affairs office or its designee may receive the notifications.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4402

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 30, 2017

Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4402 (1R).

This bill requires every county veterans' affairs office to have a designated Gold Star family member liaison, provides a definition of a Gold Star family member, sets a time frame in which the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs must notify the appropriate agencies of a servicemember's death and includes the county veterans' affairs office as an agency which must be included in such notification.

Under current law, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (department), when notified of the death of a military service member, must notify the appropriate State veterans' service office of the servicemember's death. This bill requires that the department also notify the appropriate county veterans' affairs office, or county designee, of the service member's death and requires that the notification be made within ten working days of the department receiving notice of the servicemember's death.

This bill also requires every county office to have a designated Gold Star family liaison. The liaison would be a volunteer or a Gold Star family member. The liaison will, with the State veterans' service offices, assist Gold Star families to access the services they are entitled by providing information on State benefits, Gold Star family organizations, and such other resources deemed necessary and beneficial to Gold Star families.

This bill defines a Gold Star family member as the 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, of a member of the armed services who died while on active duty for the United States.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill was not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

Governor Christie Takes Action On Pending Legislation

Monday, May 1, 2017

Tags: [Addiction Taskforce](#)
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 ...

Trenton, NJ - Governor Chris Christie signed into law today several bills to empower New Jersey's military members and veterans, including a bipartisan initiative to create the "Veterans Diversion Program."

The new law, S-307/A-4362 (Van Drew, Allen/Andrzejczak, Mazzeo, Land, Tucker, Benson, Bramnick), requires the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to collaborate with its federal counterpart and develop a statewide program providing appropriate case management and mental health services to eligible military service members who have committed nonviolent offenses. The department will publicize a directory of existing federal and State case management and mental health program locations, which will serve as points of entry to facilitate support and services.

"It is impossible to imagine the courage, sacrifices and experiences of the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect the American people and our freedom," Governor Christie said. "This critical legislation gives back by supporting New Jersey's military service members when they need it most and when their lives depend on it. This new program will strengthen families and communities, by empowering veterans with individualized, holistic care and steering them clear of the criminal justice system."

Other military and veterans' bills signed by Governor Christie today require the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) to develop an informational website for Gold Star families; require DMAVA to notify local county veterans' affairs offices and State veterans service offices of the death of a New Jersey or other service member whose surviving beneficiary resides in the State in order to inform the beneficiaries of federal and state benefits and creates a designated Gold Star family member liaison for each county veterans' office; and, retains eligibility for New Jersey National Guard members or reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces called to active federal military service who met maximum age requirements at the closing date of civil service examinations.

Governor Christie also took action on the following bills:

BILL SIGNINGS:

S-158/A-3631 (Madden, Cruz-Perez/Quijano, Schaer, Vainieri Huttler, Zwicker, Mukherji, Danielsen) - Permits holding companies of eligible New Jersey emerging technology companies to receive investments under "New Jersey Angel Investor Tax Credit Act"

S-227/A-963 (Holzapfel, Allen/Wolfe, McGuckin, Dancer) - Requires DOT, NJTA, and SJTA to use only native vegetation for landscaping, land management, reforestation, or habitat restoration

S-518/A-4452 (Beck/Downey, Houghtaling, Benson, Mukherji, Vainieri Huttler) - Requires sanitation vehicles display flashing lights in certain circumstances and imposes conditions on drivers approaching sanitation vehicles displaying flashing lights; designated as "Michael Massey's Law"

S-724/A-3604 (Cruz-Perez, Allen/Eustace, Wolfe, Mukherji) - Establishes "Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program"

S-792/A-1271 (Sarlo/ Caride, Schaer, Pintor Marin) - Permits newly created regional school districts or enlarging regional school districts to determine apportionment methodology for their boards of education on basis other than population

S-913/A-3404 (Codey, Vitale/Burzichelli, Coughlin, Schaer, Singleton) - Permits hospitals to establish system for making performance-based incentive payments to physicians

S-1059/A-4462 (Diegnan/Lagana, Vainieri Huttie, Mukherji) - Permits amusement games license to be issued to holder of alcoholic beverage special concessionaire permit at certain airports; allows licensees to offer electronic amusements under certain circumstances

S-1398/A-1447 (Weinberg, Gill/Lampitt, Spencer, Vainieri Huttie, McKeon, Mukherji, Holley, Caride, Downey) - Expands infertility coverage under certain health insurance plans

S-1404/A-4423 (Weinberg/Johnson, Benson, Mukherji, Handlin) - Requires governmental affairs agents to disclose on notice of representation form compensation amount received from State or local government entities; requires notice to be posted on Internet site of Election Law Enforcement Commission

S-1475/A-3304 (Ruiz, Vitale/Vainieri Huttie, Mukherji, Holley, Jimenez) - Establishes three-year Medicaid home visitation demonstration project

S-1634/A-3991 (Turner, Stack/Muoio, Wimberly, Johnson, Pintor Marin, Mukherji) - Requires housing authority to advertise when applications are being accepted for housing assistance waiting lists online

S-1761/A-4473 (Rice, Cunningham, Pou/Johnson, Wimberly, Pintor Marin) - Directs Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development to promote basic skills training through organizations dedicated to the economic empowerment of specific segments of society, such as the African American Chamber of Commerce

S-1825/A-3432 (Sarlo, Cruz-Perez, Gordon/Greenwald, Lampitt, Benson, Caride, Chiaravalloti) - Establishes task force to study and make recommendations concerning mobility and support services needs of NJ adults with autism spectrum disorder

S-1856/A-3846 (Pou, Allen/Phoebus, Tucker, Space) - Provides for retained eligibility for members of NJ National Guard or reserve component of US Armed Forces called to active federal military service who met maximum age requirement at closing date of civil service examination

S-2286/A-3083 (Weinberg, Gordon/Vainieri Huttie, Eustace, Johnson) - Establishes Mike Adler Aphasia Task Force to assess needs of persons with aphasia, and their families, and ensure adequate provision of support services and information thereto

S-2414/A-4056 (Scutari/Jimenez, Eustace, Giblin, McKnight) - Requires "Massage and Bodywork Therapist Licensing Act" to require certain class study and examination requirements

S-2856/A-4402 (Beach, Madden/Greenwald, Andrzejczak, Johnson, Rible, Jones, Land, Houghtaling, Benson) - Requires DMVA to notify county veterans' affairs office of death of certain military service members; requires office to have Gold Star liaisons

S-2857/A-4403 (Beach, Madden/Greenwald, Rible, Land, Johnson, Mazzeo, Andrzejczak, Houghtaling, Benson) - Requires Adjutant General to create informational webpage for Gold Star families

S-2868/A-4501 (Pou, Sarlo/Sumter, Wimberly) - Increases value of Economic Redevelopment and Growth Grant program residential tax credits to \$823 million; restricts \$105 million of tax credits to qualified residential projects and mixed use parking projects

S-3015/A-4623 (Rice, Ruiz/Sumter, Oliver, Schaer, Pintor Marin) - Requires study of program allowing community service in lieu of paying motor vehicle surcharges

SJR-49/AJR-106 (Ruiz, Oroho/Phoebus, Pintor Marin, Space, McKnight, Schepisi) - Designates third week in September of each year as Go Gold for Kids with Cancer Awareness Week"

SJR-75/AJR- 122 (Rice, Codey/Oliver, Giblin, Chiaravalloti, Sumter, Quijano, McKnight) - Establishes "Disparity in State Procurement Study Commission"

BILLS VETOED:

S-596/A-3422 (Cunningham, Greenstein, Sweeney/Benson, Mukherji, Muoio, Holley, Sumter, Downey, Lampitt, Oliver, Danielsen, Wimberly) - **CONDITIONAL** - Establishes compensation program for law enforcement officers and certain other employees injured while performing official duties

S-690/A-2921 (Gordon, Beach, Eustace, Houghtaling, Pinkin, Mazzeo) - **CONDITIONAL** - Increases flexibility, clarity, and available tools of optional municipal consolidation process

SCS for S-895/ACS for A-2182 (Lesniak, Beck, Cunningham/Sumter, Holley, Oliver, Jones, Wimberly) - **CONDITIONAL** - "Earn Your Way Out Act"; requires DOC to develop inmate reentry plan; establishes administrative parole release for certain inmates; requires study and report by DOC on fiscal impact

S-956/A-2202 (Gordon, Bateman/Eustace, Zwicker, O'Scanlon, Downey, Wisniewski, Pinkin) - **CONDITIONAL** - Authorizes special emergency appropriations for the payment of certain expenses incurred by municipalities to implement a municipal consolidation

S-2844/A-4425 (Vitale, Codey/Vainieri Huttie, Muoio, Eustace, Space, Benson) - **CONDITIONAL** - Eliminates certificate of need requirement for inpatient hospital beds for treatment of psychiatric and substance use disorder dual

diagnosis

**S-3041/ACS for A-2338 (Lesniak/Benson, Vainieri Huttle, Eustace, Gusciora, Mukherji, Jimenez) -
CONDITIONAL** - Revises "Pet Purchase Protection Act" to establish new requirements for pet dealers and pet shops

**S-3048/A-4520 (Weinberg, Turner, Greenstein/McKeon, Singleton, Moriarty, Quijano, Johnson, Benson) -
CONDITIONAL** - Requires candidates for President and Vice-President of United States to disclose federal income tax returns to appear on ballot; prohibits Electoral College electors from voting for candidates who fail to file income tax returns

###

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