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RWH/CL

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 207, *approved August 5, 2019*
Senate, No. 2525

1 **AN ACT** concerning agreements with public and private entities to
2 provide legal services to homeless veterans and supplementing
3 Title 38A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. (New section) This act shall be known and may be cited as
9 the “Homeless Veterans Legal Services Act of New Jersey.”

10
11 2. (New section) a. Subject to the availability of funds
12 appropriated for this purpose, including but not limited to funding
13 appropriated through section 3 of P.L. 2013, c.239 (C.38A:3-6.2b),
14 the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program, the Adjutant
15 General of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans’
16 Affairs shall enter into agreements with public or private entities to
17 fund a portion of the legal services specified in this act, that are
18 provided by such entities to homeless veterans and veterans at risk
19 of homelessness.

20 b. The Adjutant General shall ensure that, to the extent
21 practicable, agreements established under this section are made with
22 entities located in the northern, central and southern regions of the
23 State.

24 c. Legal services shall include legal services provided by
25 public or private entities that address the needs of homeless
26 veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness as follows:

27 (1) Legal services related to housing, including eviction defense,
28 representation in landlord-tenant cases, and representation in
29 foreclosure cases.

30 (2) Legal services related to family law, including assistance in
31 court proceedings for child support, divorce, estate planning and
32 family reconciliation.

33 (3) Legal services related to income support including assistance
34 in obtaining public benefits.

35 (4) Legal services related to criminal defense, including defense
36 in matters symptomatic of homelessness, such as outstanding
37 warrants, fines and driver’s license revocation, to reduce recidivism
38 and facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in employment or
39 housing.

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 (5) Such other legal services as the Adjutant General deems
2 appropriate.

3 d. In developing and carrying out agreements under this
4 section, the Adjutant General shall, to the extent practicable consult
5 with veterans service organizations; and coordinate appropriate
6 outreach relationships with such organizations.

7 e. The Adjutant General may require entities that enter into
8 agreements under this section to submit periodic reports on legal
9 services provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of
10 homelessness.

11

12 3. Section 3 of P.L. 2013, c.239 (C. 38A:3-6.2b) is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 3. There is established in the Department of Military and
15 Veterans' Affairs the "New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant
16 Program." The purpose of this program shall be to award grants to
17 organizations that assist homeless veterans in this State from funds
18 appropriated to the department from the "Homeless Veterans Grant
19 Fund" established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2013, c.239
20 (C.54A:9-25.33). The grants shall be allocated on a competitive
21 basis except grants allocated to public or private entities that
22 provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of
23 homelessness shall be allocated pursuant to section 2 of
24 P.L. c. , (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The
25 Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans'
26 Affairs shall develop criteria for the granting of awards. An
27 organization that wishes to apply for a grant under this program
28 shall submit an application to the Adjutant General. The
29 application shall, at the minimum, include a description of how the
30 organization will assist homeless veterans. The Adjutant General
31 may adopt, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
32 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations
33 necessary to effectuate the grant program.

34 (cf: P.L.2013, c.239, s.3)

35

36 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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41 This bill directs the Adjutant General in the Department of
42 Military and Veterans' Affairs, subject to the availability of funds,
43 to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a
44 portion of the legal services such entities provide to homeless
45 veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing,
46 family law, income support, and criminal defense.

47 Under the bill, the Adjutant General shall ensure that, to the
48 extent practicable, agreements established under this section are

1 made with entities located in the northern, central and southern
2 regions of the State. The legal services shall include the following:

3 (1) Legal services related to housing, including eviction defense,
4 representation in landlord-tenant cases, and representation in foreclosure
5 cases.

6 (2) Legal services related to family law, including assistance in court
7 proceedings for child support, divorce, estate planning and family
8 reconciliation.

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10 in obtaining public benefits.

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12 in matters symptomatic of homelessness, such as outstanding
13 warrants, fines and driver's license revocation, to reduce recidivism
14 and facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in employment or
15 housing.

16 (5) Such other legal services as the Adjutant General deems
17 appropriate.

18 The bill amends N.J.S.A.38A:3-6.2b, the "New Jersey Homeless
19 Veterans Grant Program." This program awards grants, on a
20 competitive basis, to organizations that assist homeless veterans in
21 this State from funds appropriated to the department from the
22 "Homeless Veterans Grant Fund" established pursuant to section 4
23 of P.L.2013, c.239 (C.54A:9-25.33). The amendment to this section
24 provides that grants allocated to public or private entities that
25 provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of
26 homelessness shall be allocated pursuant to section 2 of this bill
27 which directs the Adjutant General to enter into agreements with
28 public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services
29 specified in this act.

30 Under the bill, the Adjutant General may require entities that
31 enter into agreements to submit periodic reports on legal services
32 provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

33 The bill is modeled on H.R.1993, federal legislation currently
34 pending in Congress.

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39 Directs Adjutant General to enter into agreements with legal
40 services organizations to provide legal services to homeless
41 veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

SENATE, No. 2525

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 10, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Senators Pennacchio, Van Drew, Brown, O'Scanlon, Ruiz,
Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblyman Houghtaling, Assemblywomen
Downey, Reynolds-Jackson, Pinkin, Tucker, Assemblymen Mazzeo,
Benson, Space, Wirths and Assemblywoman Quijano**

SYNOPSIS

Directs Adjutant General to enter into agreements with legal services organizations to provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning agreements with public and private entities to
2 provide legal services to homeless veterans and supplementing
3 Title 38A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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9 the “Homeless Veterans Legal Services Act of New Jersey.”

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12 appropriated for this purpose, including but not limited to funding
13 appropriated through section 3 of P.L. 2013, c.239 (C.38A:3-6.2b),
14 the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program, the Adjutant
15 General of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans’
16 Affairs shall enter into agreements with public or private entities to
17 fund a portion of the legal services specified in this act, that are
18 provided by such entities to homeless veterans and veterans at risk
19 of homelessness.

20 b. The Adjutant General shall ensure that, to the extent
21 practicable, agreements established under this section are made with
22 entities located in the northern, central and southern regions of the
23 State.

24 c. Legal services shall include legal services provided by
25 public or private entities that address the needs of homeless
26 veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness as follows:

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28 representation in landlord-tenant cases, and representation in
29 foreclosure cases.

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31 court proceedings for child support, divorce, estate planning and
32 family reconciliation.

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34 in obtaining public benefits.

35 (4) Legal services related to criminal defense, including defense
36 in matters symptomatic of homelessness, such as outstanding
37 warrants, fines and driver’s license revocation, to reduce recidivism
38 and facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in employment or
39 housing.

40 (5) Such other legal services as the Adjutant General deems
41 appropriate.

42 d. In developing and carrying out agreements under this
43 section, the Adjutant General shall, to the extent practicable consult
44 with veterans service organizations; and coordinate appropriate
45 outreach relationships with such organizations.

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2 agreements under this section to submit periodic reports on legal
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4 homelessness.

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6 3. Section 3 of P.L. 2013, c.239 (C. 38A:3-6.2b) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 3. There is established in the Department of Military and
9 Veterans' Affairs the "New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant
10 Program." The purpose of this program shall be to award grants to
11 organizations that assist homeless veterans in this State from funds
12 appropriated to the department from the "Homeless Veterans Grant
13 Fund" established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2013, c.239
14 (C.54A:9-25.33). The grants shall be allocated on a competitive
15 basis except grants allocated to public or private entities that
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18 P.L. c. , (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The
19 Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans'
20 Affairs shall develop criteria for the granting of awards. An
21 organization that wishes to apply for a grant under this program
22 shall submit an application to the Adjutant General. The
23 application shall, at the minimum, include a description of how the
24 organization will assist homeless veterans. The Adjutant General
25 may adopt, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
26 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations
27 necessary to effectuate the grant program.
28 (cf: P.L.2013, c.239, s.3)

29

30 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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33

STATEMENT

34

35 This bill directs the Adjutant General in the Department of
36 Military and Veterans' Affairs, subject to the availability of funds,
37 to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a
38 portion of the legal services such entities provide to homeless
39 veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing,
40 family law, income support, and criminal defense.

41 Under the bill, the Adjutant General shall ensure that, to the
42 extent practicable, agreements established under this section are
43 made with entities located in the northern, central and southern
44 regions of the State. The legal services shall include the following:

45 (1) Legal services related to housing, including eviction defense,
46 representation in landlord-tenant cases, and representation in foreclosure
47 cases.

S2525 SINGLETON, CUNNINGHAM

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1 (2) Legal services related to family law, including assistance in court
2 proceedings for child support, divorce, estate planning and family
3 reconciliation.

4 (3) Legal services related to income support including assistance
5 in obtaining public benefits.

6 (4) Legal services related to criminal defense, including defense
7 in matters symptomatic of homelessness, such as outstanding
8 warrants, fines and driver's license revocation, to reduce recidivism
9 and facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in employment or
10 housing.

11 (5) Such other legal services as the Adjutant General deems
12 appropriate.

13 The bill amends N.J.S.A.38A:3-6.2b, the "New Jersey Homeless
14 Veterans Grant Program." This program awards grants, on a
15 competitive basis, to organizations that assist homeless veterans in
16 this State from funds appropriated to the department from the
17 "Homeless Veterans Grant Fund" established pursuant to section 4
18 of P.L.2013, c.239 (C.54A:9-25.33). The amendment to this section
19 provides that grants allocated to public or private entities that
20 provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of
21 homelessness shall be allocated pursuant to section 2 of this bill
22 which directs the Adjutant General to enter into agreements with
23 public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services
24 specified in this act.

25 Under the bill, the Adjutant General may require entities that
26 enter into agreements to submit periodic reports on legal services
27 provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

28 The bill is modeled on H.R.1993, federal legislation currently
29 pending in Congress.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE No. 2525

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 10, 2019

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2525.

This bill directs the Adjutant General in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, subject to the availability of funds, to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services such entities provide to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing, family law, income support, and criminal defense.

Under the bill, the Adjutant General shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, agreements established under this section are made with entities located in the northern, central and southern regions of the State. The legal services shall include the following:

(1) Legal services related to housing, including eviction defense, representation in landlord-tenant cases, and representation in foreclosure cases;

(2) Legal services related to family law, including assistance in court proceedings for child support, divorce, estate planning and family reconciliation;

(3) Legal services related to income support including assistance in obtaining public benefits;

(4) Legal services related to criminal defense, including defense in matters symptomatic of homelessness, such as outstanding warrants, fines and driver's license revocation, to reduce recidivism and facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in employment or housing; and

(5) Such other legal services as the Adjutant General deems appropriate.

The bill amends N.J.S.A.38A:3-6.2b, the "New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program." This program awards grants, on a competitive basis, to organizations that assist homeless veterans in this State from funds appropriated to the department from the "Homeless Veterans Grant Fund" established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2013, c.239 (C.54A:9-25.33). The amendment to this section provides that grants allocated to public or private entities that provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness shall be allocated pursuant to section 2 of this bill which directs the Adjutant

General to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services specified in this act.

Under the bill, the Adjutant General may require entities that enter into agreements to submit periodic reports on legal services provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

The bill is modeled on federal legislation, the “Homeless Veterans Legal Services Act,” currently pending in Congress.

Senate Bill No. 2525 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4022 of 2018-2019.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2525

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 14, 2018

The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2525.

This bill directs the Adjutant General in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, subject to the availability of funds, to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services such entities provide to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing, family law, income support, and criminal defense.

Under the bill, the Adjutant General will ensure that, to the extent practicable, agreements established under this section are made with entities located in the northern, central and southern regions of the State. The legal services will include the following:

(1) Legal services related to housing, including eviction defense, representation in landlord-tenant cases, and representation in foreclosure cases.

(2) Legal services related to family law, including assistance in court proceedings for child support, divorce, estate planning and family reconciliation.

(3) Legal services related to income support including assistance in obtaining public benefits.

(4) Legal services related to criminal defense, including defense in matters symptomatic of homelessness, such as outstanding warrants, fines and driver's license revocation, to reduce recidivism and facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in employment or housing.

(5) Such other legal services as the Adjutant General deems appropriate.

The bill amends the "New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program." This program awards grants, on a competitive basis, to organizations that assist homeless veterans in this State from funds appropriated to the department from the "Homeless Veterans Grant Fund". Under the bill, in addition to the funding appropriated through the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program, the Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services specified in this bill, that are

provided by such entities to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

Under the bill, the Adjutant General may require entities that enter into agreements to submit periodic reports on legal services provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

The bill is modeled on federal legislation currently pending in Congress.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2525

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 15, 2018

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2525.

This bill directs the Adjutant General in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, subject to the availability of funds, to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services such entities provide to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing, family law, income support, and criminal defense.

Under the bill, the Adjutant General shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, agreements established under the bill are made with entities located in the northern, central and southern regions of the State. The legal services shall include the following:

(1) Legal services related to housing, including eviction defense, representation in landlord-tenant cases, and representation in foreclosure cases.

(2) Legal services related to family law, including assistance in court proceedings for child support, divorce, estate planning and family reconciliation.

(3) Legal services related to income support including assistance in obtaining public benefits.

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(5) Such other legal services as the Adjutant General deems appropriate.

The bill amends N.J.S.A.38A:3-6.2b, the "New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program." This program awards grants, on a competitive basis, to organizations that assist homeless veterans in this State from funds appropriated to the department from the "Homeless Veterans Grant Fund" established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2013, c.239 (C.54A:9-25.33). The amendment to this section provides that grants allocated to public or private entities that provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness shall be allocated pursuant to section 2 of this bill which directs the Adjutant General to enter into agreements with

public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services specified in this act.

Under the bill, the Adjutant General may require entities that enter into agreements to submit periodic reports on legal services provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

The bill is modeled on H.R.1993, federal legislation currently pending in Congress.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The costs associated with this bill for the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing, family law, income support, and criminal defense are indeterminate and subject to appropriation. The bill references the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program, established by P.L.2013, c.239 and possible funding from the Homeless Veterans Grant Fund. The purpose of the program is to award grants to organizations that assist homeless veterans in New Jersey from funds appropriated to the department from gross income tax return donations and deposited into the Homeless Veterans Grant Fund.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 2525
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 24, 2018

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Directs Adjutant General to enter into agreements with legal service organizations to provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.
- Type of Impact:** Expenditure increase to the State General Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost		Indeterminate	

- The costs associated with this bill for the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing, family law, income support, and criminal defense are indeterminate and subject to appropriation
- The bill references the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program, established by P.L.2013, c.239 and possible funding from the Homeless Veterans Grant Fund. The purpose of the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program is to award grants to organizations that assist homeless veterans in New Jersey from funds appropriated to the department from gross income tax return donations and deposited into the Homeless Veterans Grant Fund.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill directs the Adjutant General in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, subject to the availability of funds, to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services such entities provide to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing, family law, income support, and criminal defense.

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(1) Legal services related to housing, including eviction defense, representation in landlord-tenant cases, and representation in foreclosure cases.

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(5) Such other legal services as the Adjutant General deems appropriate.

The bill amends N.J.S.A.38A:3-6.2b, the "New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program." This program awards grants, on a competitive basis, to organizations that assist homeless veterans in this State from funds appropriated to the department from the "Homeless Veterans Grant Fund" established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2013, c.239 (C.54A:9-25.33). The amendment to this section provides that grants allocated to public or private entities that provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness shall be allocated pursuant to section 2 of this bill which directs the Adjutant General to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services specified in this act.

Under the bill, the Adjutant General may require entities that enter into agreements to submit periodic reports on legal services provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

The bill is modeled on H.R.1993, federal legislation currently pending in Congress.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The costs associated with this bill for the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing, family law, income support, and criminal defense are indeterminate and subject to appropriation. The bill references the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program, established by P.L.2013, c.239 and possible funding from the Homeless Veterans Grant Fund. The purpose of the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program is to award grants to organizations that assist homeless veterans in New Jersey from funds appropriated to the department from gross income tax return donations and deposited into the Homeless Veterans Grant Fund.

Section: State Government

*Analyst: Kimberly M. Clemmensen
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

ASSEMBLY, No. 4022

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 24, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

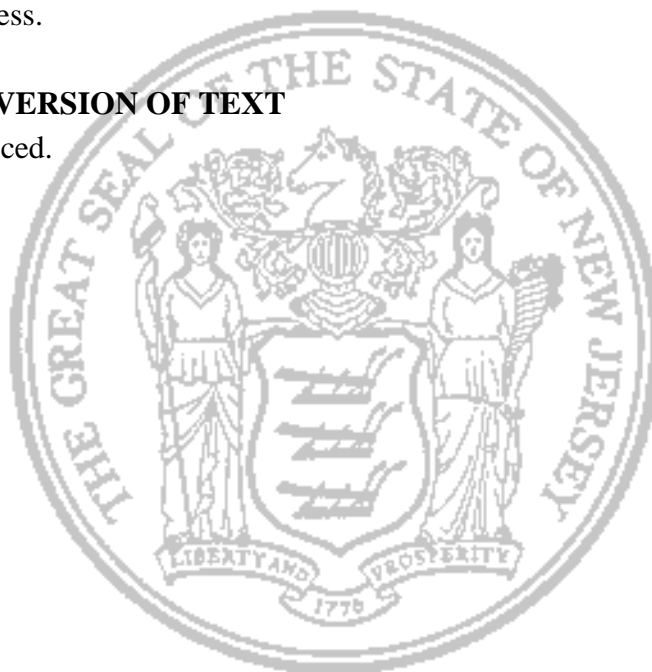
Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblyman Houghtaling, Assemblywomen Downey, Reynolds-Jackson, Pinkin, Tucker, Assemblymen Mazzeo, Benson, Space, Wirths and Assemblywoman Quijano

SYNOPSIS

Directs Adjutant General to enter into agreements with legal services organizations to provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2019)

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2 provide legal services to homeless veterans and supplementing
3 Title 38A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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14 the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program, the Adjutant
15 General of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans’
16 Affairs shall enter into agreements with public or private entities to
17 fund a portion of the legal services specified in this act, that are
18 provided by such entities to homeless veterans and veterans at risk
19 of homelessness.

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37 warrants, fines and driver’s license revocation, to reduce recidivism
38 and facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in employment or
39 housing.

40 (5) Such other legal services as the Adjutant General deems
41 appropriate.

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43 section, the Adjutant General shall, to the extent practicable consult
44 with veterans service organizations; and coordinate appropriate
45 outreach relationships with such organizations.

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Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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25 may adopt, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
26 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations
27 necessary to effectuate the grant program.
28 (cf: P.L.2013, c.239, s.3)

29
30 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

31
32
33 STATEMENT

34
35 This bill directs the Adjutant General in the Department of
36 Military and Veterans' Affairs, subject to the availability of funds,
37 to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a
38 portion of the legal services such entities provide to homeless
39 veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing,
40 family law, income support, and criminal defense.

41 Under the bill, the Adjutant General shall ensure that, to the
42 extent practicable, agreements established under this section are
43 made with entities located in the northern, central and southern
44 regions of the State. The legal services shall include the following:

45 (1) Legal services related to housing, including eviction defense,
46 representation in landlord-tenant cases, and representation in foreclosure
47 cases.

1 (2) Legal services related to family law, including assistance in court
2 proceedings for child support, divorce, estate planning and family
3 reconciliation.

4 (3) Legal services related to income support including assistance
5 in obtaining public benefits.

6 (4) Legal services related to criminal defense, including defense
7 in matters symptomatic of homelessness, such as outstanding
8 warrants, fines and driver's license revocation, to reduce recidivism
9 and facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in employment or
10 housing.

11 (5) Such other legal services as the Adjutant General deems
12 appropriate.

13 The bill amends N.J.S.A.38A:3-6.2b, the "New Jersey Homeless
14 Veterans Grant Program." This program awards grants, on a
15 competitive basis, to organizations that assist homeless veterans in
16 this State from funds appropriated to the department from the
17 "Homeless Veterans Grant Fund" established pursuant to section 4
18 of P.L.2013, c.239 (C.54A:9-25.33). The amendment to this section
19 provides that grants allocated to public or private entities that
20 provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of
21 homelessness shall be allocated pursuant to section 2 of this bill
22 which directs the Adjutant General to enter into agreements with
23 public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services
24 specified in this act.

25 Under the bill, the Adjutant General may require entities that
26 enter into agreements to submit periodic reports on legal services
27 provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

28 The bill is modeled on H.R.1993, federal legislation currently
29 pending in Congress.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4022

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 10, 2019

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4022.

This bill directs the Adjutant General in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, subject to the availability of funds, to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services such entities provide to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing, family law, income support, and criminal defense.

Under the bill, the Adjutant General shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, agreements established under this section are made with entities located in the northern, central and southern regions of the State. The legal services shall include the following:

(1) Legal services related to housing, including eviction defense, representation in landlord-tenant cases, and representation in foreclosure cases;

(2) Legal services related to family law, including assistance in court proceedings for child support, divorce, estate planning and family reconciliation;

(3) Legal services related to income support including assistance in obtaining public benefits;

(4) Legal services related to criminal defense, including defense in matters symptomatic of homelessness, such as outstanding warrants, fines and driver's license revocation, to reduce recidivism and facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in employment or housing; and

(5) Such other legal services as the Adjutant General deems appropriate.

The bill amends N.J.S.A.38A:3-6.2b, the "New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program." This program awards grants, on a competitive basis, to organizations that assist homeless veterans in this State from funds appropriated to the department from the "Homeless Veterans Grant Fund" established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2013, c.239 (C.54A:9-25.33). The amendment to this section provides that grants allocated to public or private entities that provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness shall be allocated pursuant to section 2 of this bill

which directs the Adjutant General to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services specified in this act.

Under the bill, the Adjutant General may require entities that enter into agreements to submit periodic reports on legal services provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

The bill is modeled on federal legislation, the “Homeless Veterans Legal Services Act,” currently pending in Congress.

Assembly Bill No. 4022 is identical to Senate Bill No. 2525 of 2018-2019.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 4022
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 20, 2019

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Directs Adjutant General to enter into agreements with legal service organizations to provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.
- Type of Impact:** Expenditure increase to the State General Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost		Indeterminate	

- The costs associated with this bill for the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing, family law, income support, and criminal defense are indeterminate and subject to appropriation.
- The bill references the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program, established by P.L.2013, c.239 and possible funding from the Homeless Veterans Grant Fund. The purpose of the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program is to award grants to organizations that assist homeless veterans in New Jersey from funds appropriated to the department from gross income tax return donations and deposited into the Homeless Veterans Grant Fund.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill directs the Adjutant General in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, subject to the availability of funds, to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services such entities provide to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing, family law, income support, and criminal defense.

Under the bill, the Adjutant General shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, agreements established under this section are made with entities located in the northern, central and southern regions of the State. The legal services shall include the following:

(1) Legal services related to housing, including eviction defense, representation in landlord-tenant cases, and representation in foreclosure cases.

(2) Legal services related to family law, including assistance in court proceedings for child support, divorce, estate planning and family reconciliation.

(3) Legal services related to income support including assistance in obtaining public benefits.

(4) Legal services related to criminal defense, including defense in matters symptomatic of homelessness, such as outstanding warrants, fines and driver's license revocation, to reduce recidivism and facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in employment or housing.

(5) Such other legal services as the Adjutant General deems appropriate.

The bill amends N.J.S.A.38A:3-6.2b, the "New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program." This program awards grants, on a competitive basis, to organizations that assist homeless veterans in this State from funds appropriated to the department from the "Homeless Veterans Grant Fund" established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2013, c.239 (C.54A:9-25.33). The amendment to this section provides that grants allocated to public or private entities that provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness shall be allocated pursuant to section 2 of this bill which directs the Adjutant General to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services specified in this act.

Under the bill, the Adjutant General may require entities that enter into agreements to submit periodic reports on legal services provided to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

The bill is modeled on H.R.1993, federal legislation currently pending in Congress.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The costs associated with this bill for the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs to enter into agreements with public or private entities to fund a portion of the legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness related to housing, family law, income support, and criminal defense are indeterminate and subject to appropriation. The bill references the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program, established by P.L.2013, c.239 and possible funding from the Homeless Veterans Grant Fund. The purpose of the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program is to award grants to organizations that assist homeless veterans in New Jersey from funds appropriated to the department from gross income tax return donations and deposited into the Homeless Veterans Grant Fund.

Section: State Government

*Analyst: Kimberly M. Clemmensen
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Acting Governor Oliver Signs Legislation to Support New Jersey Veterans

08/05/2019

TRENTON – Acting Governor Sheila Oliver today signed five pieces of legislation furthering the Murphy-Oliver Administration's commitment to support more than 435,000 veterans who call New Jersey home.

"Today, we are backing up our words with action by signing five important pieces of legislation for our service women and men," **said Acting Governor Sheila Oliver, who serves as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs**. "From expanding veterans' property tax deductions to directing the provision of free legal services for veterans at risk of becoming homeless, these new laws put New Jersey on the right path for supporting those who have served our country."

The following bills were signed into law:

- **S1331 (Gopal, Madden/Houghtaling, Downey, Danielsen)** - Extends eligibility for veterans' property tax deduction to exemption to residents of continuing care retirement communities.
- **S2447 (Diegnan/Armato, Mazzeo, Murphy)** - Requires landlords to count federal military service member and veteran housing allowances as income for purposes of qualifying for rental housing; designated as Securing Electronic Records for Veterans Ease Act.
- **S2525 (Singleton, Cunningham/Armato, Mukherji, Danielsen)** - Directs Adjutant General to enter into agreements with legal services organizations to provide legal services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.
- **A4095 (Houghtaling, Downey, Space/Gopal)** - Grants veteran discharged under honorable conditions right to peddler's license.
- **SJR86 (Singleton/Armato, Mazzeo, DeAngelo)** - Honors American Legion on 100th anniversary of its founding.

The legislation signed addresses a range of services including from providing property tax relief to honoring the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion. Another bill directs the Adjutant General to work with legal service organizations, to provide combat veteran homelessness.

"New Jersey is committed to ensuring that we honor our brave men and women for their service, not just in words, but through action," **said New Jersey Adjutant General Jemal Beale**. "I thank the Acting Governor for signing this important legislation to support our veterans who have sacrificed so much for this nation."

Regarding S1331:

"To serve our country is to commit your life to our national values, freedoms and safety, no matter the cost," **said Senator Vin Gopal**. "This courageous and selfless act deserves to be acknowledged at all levels of our society, whether that means cutting veterans a break on their property taxes or expanding their access to career opportunities. No action is too big or small when we are thanking those who have sacrificed so much for us."

"The veterans' property tax deduction is an extension of our state's appreciation for our veterans," **said Senator Fred Madden**. "These folks, whether they own their home or not, risked their lives for this country and while \$250 may not seem like a large sum, when someone is in a retirement community, often living on a fixed income, every dollar counts."

"Our veterans have done so much for us, it is simply the least we can do to give them the same assistance we give to current homeowners," **said Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling**. "The goal of this law is to make a simple fix to offer all of our veterans the same benefit whether they own a home or live in a continuing care retirement community."

"Many veterans are discharged and end up experiencing significant financial hardships," **said Assemblywoman Joann Downey**. "This law will help veterans and their families by giving them just a little extra assistance to live in communities that can give them the care they not only need but deserve."

"Extending property tax deductions and exemptions for veterans living in continuing care retirement communities is absolutely the right thing to do," **said Assemblyman Joe Danielsen**. "Veterans have sacrificed for our country and

we should thank them by helping them any way we can.”

Regarding S2447:

“The benefit of this law is that it will help veterans secure rental housing,” **said Assemblyman John Armato**. “It is also beneficial to those military service members or veterans who are full-time students who often have limited or no income.”

“Our veterans have made so many sacrifices for our country,” **said Assemblyman Vincent Mazzeo**. “We should always look for ways to make their lives easier. They have earned and deserve such consideration.”

“Our nation and our state must continuously show our veterans that they are appreciated,” **said Assemblywoman Carol Murphy**. “This country is better, safer and freer because of our military. As a nation, we owe them a tremendous debt.”

Regarding S2525:

“New Jersey has between 1,500 and 2,000 homeless veterans,” **said Assemblyman John Armato, a U.S. Air Force veteran who served in the Philippines Islands and Korea**. “These statistics are unacceptable, and this law looks to correct such disturbing figures by helping these veterans get the services that they need and deserve.”

“It is unconscionable that we allow veterans to be homeless considering the sacrifices they have made to safeguard our liberties,” **said Assemblyman Raj Mukherji, a former Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps**. “In many instances, the stress and frustration that veterans experience are related to a lack of services or awareness that they exist. By helping more veterans income-qualify for rental housing, this law will help eliminate a few more roadblocks in their lives.”

“Sadly, our veterans comprise some of the highest rates of unemployment, homelessness and suicide in our communities,” **said Assemblyman Joe Daniels, who served in the U.S. Army Reserves’ 78th Division here in New Jersey and comes from a long line of veterans in his family**. “We must continue looking for ways to better serve our veterans, and this legislation is a step in the right direction.”

“Those who have put their life on the line to protect our country should be provided with legal representation when they’re at risk of losing their home,” **said Senator Sandra Cunningham**. “Veterans deserve an advocate when it relates to their well-being, their safety or the security of their family.”

“The veterans’ property tax deduction is an extension of our state’s appreciation for our veterans,” **said Senator Fred Madden**. “These folks, whether they own their home or not, risked their lives for this country and while \$250 may not seem like a large sum, when someone is in a retirement community, often living on a fixed income, every dollar counts.”

Regarding A0495:

“This isn’t about giving them a free license, it’s giving them an opportunity,” **said Assemblyman Parker Space**. “More men and women who stepped up to serve our country can be their own boss, earn extra income and even grow their venture into a food truck or brick-and-mortar business.”

Regarding SJR 86:

“It is unacceptable to allow our veterans to go from serving our country to living on the streets when they come home,” **said Senator Troy Singleton**. “Our veterans sacrificed time away from their families, friends and work in defense of our freedom so we must do everything possible to assist them during difficult and trying times in their lives. They deserve to be treated with dignity and should have the best services at their disposal.”

“Over the past 100 years, the American Legion has made a considerable mark on American culture,” **said Assemblyman John Armato**. “From influencing social change to starting programs for youth to advocating for veterans, the Legion has changed the lives of so many people. I applaud the Legion for reaching this milestone, and look forward to seeing it grow for years to come.”

“What began as a small patriotic veteran’s organization has flourished into an over two million-strong nonprofit spanning all fifty states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines,” **said Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo**. “The patriots of the American Legion work tirelessly to serve veterans and make a positive impact in their communities, and their efforts should be celebrated today and every day.”

“The American Legion represents the very best of America; the people who’ve served their country bravely, and gone on to continue their service through community-based advocacy,” **said Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo.** “We salute the American Legion and all it has achieved for our entire nation.”

“The American Legion is the nation’s largest veterans service organization with 295 American Legion Posts in New Jersey,” **said New Jersey American Legion State Commander Robert Newell.** “Since 1919, we have supported America’s service members and veterans, their families, and the communities we live in. We thank Acting Governor Oliver and the New Jersey legislature for their leadership and commitment of service to those who have served, those currently serving, and the communities of this great state.”

