

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

end

P.L.2015, CHAPTER 211, *approved January 11, 2016*
Assembly, No. 3749 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing a program to provide travel assistance to
2 certain veterans, and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 38A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes and chapter 25 of Title 27 of the Revised
4 Statutes.

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

8
9 1. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall
10 establish a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-
11 patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to attend
12 **1** [counseling programs] medical counseling appointments for
13 service-connected conditions approved and authorized by the
14 United States Department of Veterans Affairs¹ within this State.

15 The department shall **1** [also]¹:

16 a. develop, in cooperation with the New Jersey Transit
17 Corporation ¹and the United States Department of Veterans
18 Affairs¹, a program to provide **1** [assistance] reimbursement, subject
19 to available State or federal funding.¹ to qualified veterans ¹who
20 spend their own funds¹ to travel ¹on public transportation¹ to and
21 from **1** [counseling] medical counseling appointments for service-
22 connected conditions¹ within the State using any motor bus or rail
23 passenger service conducted by the corporation¹ **1** [, whenever
24 possible, without charge or the payment of a fee by the veteran]
25 when the veteran is not otherwise eligible for payment for travel or
26 reimbursement by means of any existing State or federal program¹;

27 b. develop, ¹**1** [in coordination with the New Jersey Transit
28 Corporation, a form of identification that permits a qualified veteran
29 to be identified as a participant in the program established by this
30 section] in cooperation with the United States Department of
31 Veterans Affairs, a program to provide reimbursement to qualified
32 veterans who spend their own funds to travel using private
33 transportation to and from medical counseling appointments for
34 service-connected conditions within the State by reimbursing on a
35 per mile basis their operation of a privately-owned conveyance
36 when that veteran is not otherwise eligible for payment for travel or
37 reimbursement by means of any existing State or federal program.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **1** [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 floor amendments adopted June 25, 2015.

1 provided that the qualified veteran shall not use a for-hire private
 2 entity that charges for transportation unless such transportation is
 3 necessary for the qualified veteran due to a service-connected injury
 4 or disability for which the veteran has a certified rating provided by
 5 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs which prevents or
 6 hinders his or her ability to operate a privately-owned conveyance;
 7 c. develop, in coordination with the United States Department
 8 of Veterans Affairs, a system for monitoring veterans who have
 9 applied for reimbursement¹;

10 ¹**[c.] d.**¹ notify the general public and eligible veterans that the
 11 program established by this section is available to qualified
 12 veterans; and

13 ¹**[d.] e.**¹ adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary
 14 to effectuate the purposes of this act.

15
 16 2. The New Jersey Transit Corporation shall cooperate with the
 17 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to ¹**[permit]** provide
 18 receipts or other proof of travel to¹ veterans in in-patient and out-
 19 patient treatment programs who have been qualified to use any
 20 motorbus or rail passenger service ¹**[conducted by the corporation**
 21 **without charge or the payment of a fee,]**¹ pursuant to section 1 of
 22 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
 23 ¹**[to]** so that they may be reimbursed for travel to¹ attend
 24 ¹**[counseling programs]** medical counseling appointments for
 25 service-connected conditions¹ within this State ¹when they are not
 26 otherwise eligible for payment for travel or reimbursement through
 27 any other State or federal program¹.

28 ¹**[The corporation, in coordination with the Department of**
 29 **Military and Veterans' Affairs, shall develop a form of**
 30 **identification that permits a qualified veteran to be identified as a**
 31 **participant in the program established by section 1 of P.L. ,**
 32 **c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).]**¹

33
 34 3. This act shall take effect on the ¹**[90th]** 180th¹ day
 35 following the date of enactment.

36
 37
 38
 39
 40 _____
 41 Establishes program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in
 42 in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to medical
 counseling in State.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3749

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 29, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

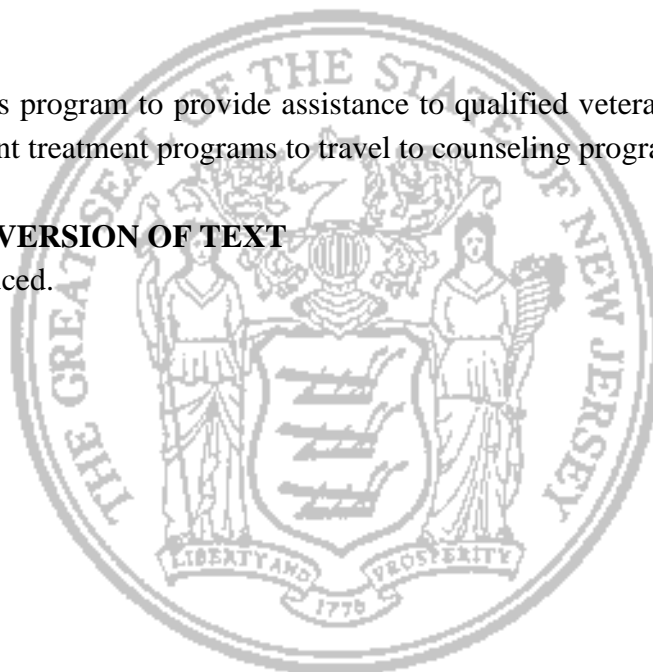
**Assemblywomen Mosquera, Tucker, Assemblyman Wilson,
Assemblywomen Spencer, Vainieri Huttle, Assemblymen Johnson and
Danielsen**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to counseling programs in State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/2015)

1 AN ACT establishing a program to provide travel assistance to
2 certain veterans, and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 38A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes and chapter 25 of Title 27 of the Revised
4 Statutes.

5

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

8

9 1. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall
10 establish a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-
11 patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to attend
12 counseling programs within this State.

13 The department shall also:

14 a. develop, in cooperation with the New Jersey Transit
15 Corporation, a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans
16 to travel to and from counseling within the State using any motor
17 bus or rail passenger service conducted by the corporation,
18 whenever possible, without charge or the payment of a fee by the
19 veteran;

20 b. develop, in coordination with the New Jersey Transit
21 Corporation, a form of identification that permits a qualified veteran
22 to be identified as a participant in the program established by this
23 section;

24 c. notify the general public and eligible veterans that the
25 program established by this section is available to qualified
26 veterans; and

27 d. adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to
28 effectuate the purposes of this act.

29

30 2. The New Jersey Transit Corporation shall cooperate with the
31 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to permit veterans in
32 in-patient and out-patient treatment programs who have been
33 qualified to use any motorbus or rail passenger service conducted
34 by the corporation without charge or the payment of a fee, pursuant
35 to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature
36 as this bill), to attend counseling programs within this State.

37 The corporation, in coordination with the Department of Military
38 and Veterans' Affairs, shall develop a form of identification that
39 permits a qualified veteran to be identified as a participant in the
40 program established by section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending
41 before the Legislature as this bill).

42

43 3. This act shall take effect on the 90th day following the date
44 of enactment.

STATEMENT

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

Under this bill, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs is to establish a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to attend counseling programs within this State.

The department would also:

1) develop, in cooperation with the New Jersey Transit Corporation, a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans to travel to and from counseling within the State using any motorbus or rail passenger service conducted by the corporation, whenever possible, without charge or the payment of a fee by the veteran;

2) develop, in coordination with the New Jersey Transit Corporation, a form of identification that permits a qualified veteran to be identified as a participant in the program established by this section; and

3) notify the general public and eligible veterans that the program established by this section is available to qualified veterans.

The bill also directs the New Jersey Transit Corporation to cooperate with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to effectuate the program.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3749

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 22, 2014

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly, No. 3749.

Under this bill, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs is to establish a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to attend counseling programs within this State.

The department would also:

1) develop, in cooperation with the New Jersey Transit Corporation, a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans to travel to and from counseling within the State using any motorbus or rail passenger service conducted by the corporation, whenever possible, without charge or the payment of a fee by the veteran;

2) develop, in coordination with the New Jersey Transit Corporation, a form of identification that permits a qualified veteran to be identified as a participant in the program established by this section; and

3) notify the general public and eligible veterans that the program established by this section is available to qualified veterans.

The bill also directs the New Jersey Transit Corporation to cooperate with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to effectuate the program.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3749

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 5, 2015

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3749.

This bill directs the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish a program to provide in State transportation assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs.

The bill directs the department to develop, in cooperation with the New Jersey Transit Corporation: (1) a program that helps qualified veterans to travel to and from counseling within the State by using any bus or rail passenger service of New Jersey Transit Corporation, whenever possible, without cost to the veteran, and (2) a form of identification that permits a qualified veteran to be identified as a participant in the program. The department must also notify the general public and eligible veterans of the availability of the assistance for qualified veterans.

The bill also directs the New Jersey Transit Corporation to cooperate with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to effectuate the program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

In information provided informally to The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMAVA), it is anticipated that the costs of this bill could result in either significant revenue losses to New Jersey Transit or significant administrative costs to DMAVA depending on the manner of implementation. DMAVA informally indicates that (1) it is not feasible for it to identify a veteran who would qualify for the program due to medical privacy restrictions; (2) if an individual requests a transportation identification (ID), it is not possible for DMAVA to monitor the veteran's use of the ID; and (3) it is not possible for DMAVA to know when a veteran has completed treatment and accordingly, collect the ID from the veteran. DMAVA informally indicates that an alternative would be to allow veterans to use the ID to ride mass transit on the honor system, but that such may result in significant indeterminate revenue losses to New Jersey Transit.

The OLS notes that an alternative would be to allow treatment centers to issue transportation ID to veterans who have enrolled in their programs and to collect them at the end of treatment. The OLS

notes that medical privacy issues would remain if transit operators knew why certain veterans were able to ride mass transit free of charge. Additionally, distributing transportation ID through treatment centers would not resolve the issue of restricting those with such IDs from taking mass transit for reasons other than traveling to counseling.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 3749
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

DATED: FEBRUARY 27, 2015

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to counseling programs in State.

Type of Impact: Indeterminate Expenditure Increase to State General Fund; Indeterminate Revenue Loss to New Jersey Transit Corporation.

Agencies Affected: Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; New Jersey Transit Corporation.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>FY 2018</u>
State Cost	Indeterminate - See comments below		

- This bill requires the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMAVA) to establish a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment to travel to attend counseling within this State. The program is to be developed in cooperation with the New Jersey Transit Corporation.
- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) cannot estimate the fiscal impact of this legislation because information on the number of veterans who would participate in the program and how the program would be structured is not known. However, the OLS can conclude that there will be revenue loss to the New Jersey Transit Corporation and administrative costs incurred by DMAVA. Actual costs will depend on how the program is structured and the manner of implementation.
- The program's implementation will depend on identifying veterans who would qualify as participants in the program within restrictions imposed by medical privacy laws; developing and monitoring the use of a form of identification for veterans in the program; and monitoring when counseling sessions begin and conclude.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 3749 of 2014 requires the DMAVA to establish a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to attend counseling programs within this State.

The bill requires the department to develop, in cooperation with the New Jersey Transit Corporation, a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans to travel to and from counseling within the State using any motorbus or rail passenger service conducted by the corporation, whenever possible, without charge or the payment of a fee by the veteran. In addition, the bill requires the department to develop, in coordination with the New Jersey Transit Corporation, a form of identification that permits a qualified veteran to be identified as a participant in the program established by this section. Finally, the bill requires the department to notify the general public and eligible veterans that the program established by this section is available to qualified veterans. The New Jersey Transit Corporation is required to cooperate with the DMAVA to effectuate the program.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS cannot estimate the fiscal impact of this legislation because information on the number of veterans who would participate in the program and how the program would be structured is not known. However, the OLS can conclude that there will be revenue loss to the New Jersey Transit Corporation and administrative costs incurred by DMAVA. Actual costs will depend on how the program is structured and the manner of implementation. The program's implementation will depend on identifying veterans who would qualify as participants in the program within restrictions imposed by medical privacy laws; developing and monitoring the use of a form of identification for veterans in the program; and monitoring when counseling sessions begin and conclude. The OLS also notes that the program would provide transportation to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) facilities in the State as well as non-VA facilities.

Section: State Government
Analyst: Kim McCord Clemmensen
Senior Fiscal Analyst
Approved: David J. Rosen
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.).

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 3749

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator BEACH)

ADOPTED: JUNE 25, 2015

Currently, this bill requires the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to counseling programs within this State, including providing free travel using a public bus or train with an identification card.

This floor amendment changes the bill to require the department to establish such a program for travel to medical counseling appointments for service-connected conditions approved by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The program would reimburse qualified veterans who pay for their own travel costs for public transportation or for using a private vehicle. The reimbursement for the use of a private vehicle would be on a per mile basis. The reimbursement would be made if State or federal funds are available. The amendment specifies that a veteran would not be reimbursed for any travel cost paid by an existing State or federal program, or for using a for-hire transportation service unless the veteran needs the service due to a federally-certified service-connected injury or disability that prevents the veteran from operating a private vehicle. The department must also develop a system to monitor such reimbursements. The amendment requires the department to develop the program in cooperation with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Also currently, the bill requires the New Jersey Transit Corporation to permit such qualified veterans to travel for free on a public bus or train with an identification card. The floor amendment changes this provision of the bill to require New Jersey Transit to provide proof of travel to a qualified veteran so the veteran could get reimbursed for the travel.

The amendment extends the bill's effective date from 90 days after enactment to 180 days after enactment.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3749

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 27, 2015

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to medical counseling in State.
- Type of Impact:** General Fund Expenditure
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; New Jersey Transit Corporation.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>FY 2018</u>
State Expenditure	Indeterminate increase– See comments below.		

- This bill requires the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish a program to provide travel reimbursements to qualified veterans for in-patient and out-patient treatment for travel within this State to attend medical counseling appointments for service-connected conditions approved and authorized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The reimbursement program is to be developed in cooperation with the New Jersey Transit Corporation and the United States Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and is subject to available State or federal funding.
- The Office of Legislative Services concludes that the fiscal impact of this legislation is indeterminate because the information on the number of veterans who would participate in the program and how the program would be structured is not known. Actual costs will depend on how the program is structured, implemented, and monitored with regard to the mode of transportation used and the eligibility of the participants. These costs may be offset by federal funding, if federal funding is available and if the program qualifies for federal funding.
- The program's implementation will depend on identifying veterans who are approved and authorized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and who qualify as participants in the program within restrictions imposed by medical privacy laws, and monitoring when counseling appointments begin and conclude.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 3749 (1R) of 2015 requires the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish a program to assist veterans for travel in State to medical counseling appointments for service-connected conditions approved and authorized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The program would reimburse qualified veterans who pay for their own travel costs for public transportation or for using a private vehicle. The reimbursement for the use of a private vehicle would be on a per mile basis. The reimbursement would be made if State or federal funds are available. The amendment specifies that a veteran would not be reimbursed for any travel cost paid by an existing State or federal program, or for using a for-hire transportation service unless the veteran needs the service due to a federally-certified service-connected injury or disability that prevents the veteran from operating a private vehicle. The department must also develop a system to monitor such reimbursements. The amendment requires the department to develop the program in cooperation with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

The bill requires the New Jersey Transit Corporation to provide proof of travel to a qualified veteran so the veteran can apply for and receive reimbursement for the travel.

The bill becomes effective 180 days after enactment.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services cannot estimate the fiscal impact of his legislation because the information on the number of veterans who would participate in the program and how the program would be structured is not known. Actual costs will depend on how the program is structured, implemented, and monitored with regard to the mode of transportation used and the eligibility of the participants. These costs may be offset by federal funding, if federal funding is available and if the program qualifies for federal funding.

The program's implementation will depend on identifying veterans who are approved and authorized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and who qualify as participants in the program within restrictions imposed by medical privacy laws, and monitoring when counseling appointments begin and conclude.

Section: State Government

Analyst: Kimberly McCord 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.).

SENATE, No. 2568

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 1, 2014

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH
District 6 (Burlington and Camden)
Senator DIANE B. ALLEN
District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Van Drew

SYNOPSIS

Establishes program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to counseling programs in State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/16/2014)

1 AN ACT establishing a program to provide travel assistance to
2 certain veterans, and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 38A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes and chapter 25 of Title 27 of the Revised
4 Statutes.

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

8
9 1. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall
10 establish a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-
11 patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to attend
12 counseling programs within this State.

13 The department shall also:

14 a. develop, in cooperation with the New Jersey Transit
15 Corporation, a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans
16 to travel to and from counseling within the State using any motor
17 bus or rail passenger service conducted by the corporation,
18 whenever possible, without charge or the payment of a fee by the
19 veteran;

20 b. develop, in coordination with the New Jersey Transit
21 Corporation, a form of identification that permits a qualified veteran
22 to be identified as a participant in the program established by this
23 section;

24 c. notify the general public and eligible veterans that the
25 program established by this section is available to qualified
26 veterans; and

27 d. adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to
28 effectuate the purposes of this act.

29
30 2. The New Jersey Transit Corporation shall cooperate with the
31 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to permit veterans in
32 in-patient and out-patient treatment programs who have been
33 qualified to use any motorbus or rail passenger service conducted
34 by the corporation without charge or the payment of a fee, pursuant
35 to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
36 as this bill), to attend counseling programs within this State.

37 The corporation, in coordination with the Department of Military
38 and Veterans' Affairs, shall develop a form of identification that
39 permits a qualified veteran to be identified as a participant in the
40 program established by section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending
41 before the Legislature as this bill).

42
43 3. This act shall take effect on the 90th day following the date
44 of enactment.

STATEMENT

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

Under this bill, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs is to establish a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to attend counseling programs within this State.

The department would also:

1) develop, in cooperation with the New Jersey Transit Corporation, a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans to travel to and from counseling within the State using any motorbus or rail passenger service conducted by the corporation, whenever possible, without charge or the payment of a fee by the veteran;

2) develop, in coordination with the New Jersey Transit Corporation, a form of identification that permits a qualified veteran to be identified as a participant in the program established by this section; and

3) notify the general public and eligible veterans that the program established by this section is available to qualified veterans.

The bill also directs the New Jersey Transit Corporation to cooperate with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to effectuate the program.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2568

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 13, 2014

The Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate, No. 2568.

Under this bill, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs is to establish a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to attend counseling programs within this State.

The department would also:

1) develop, in cooperation with the New Jersey Transit Corporation, a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans to travel to and from counseling within the State using any motorbus or rail passenger service conducted by the corporation, whenever possible, without charge or the payment of a fee by the veteran;

2) develop, in coordination with the New Jersey Transit Corporation, a form of identification that permits a qualified veteran to be identified as a participant in the program established by this section; and

3) notify the general public and eligible veterans that the program established by this section is available to qualified veterans.

The bill also directs the New Jersey Transit Corporation to cooperate with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to effectuate the program.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3749 of 2014-2015.

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2568

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator BEACH)

ADOPTED: JUNE 25, 2015

Currently, this bill requires the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to establish a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to counseling programs within this State, including providing free travel using a public bus or train with an identification card.

This floor amendment changes the bill to require the department to establish such a program for travel to medical counseling appointments for service-connected conditions approved by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The program would reimburse qualified veterans who pay for their own travel costs for public transportation or for using a private vehicle. The reimbursement for the use of a private vehicle would be on a per mile basis. The reimbursement would be made if State or federal funds are available. The amendment specifies that a veteran would not be reimbursed for any travel cost paid by an existing State or federal program, or for using a for-hire transportation service unless the veteran needs the service due to a federally-certified service-connected injury or disability that prevents the veteran from operating a private vehicle. The department must also develop a system to monitor such reimbursements. The amendment requires the department to develop the program in cooperation with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Also currently, the bill requires the New Jersey Transit Corporation to permit such qualified veterans to travel for free on a public bus or train with an identification card. The floor amendment changes this provision of the bill to require New Jersey Transit to provide proof of travel to a qualified veteran so the veteran could get reimbursed for the travel.

The amendment extends the bill's effective date from 90 days after enactment to 180 days after enactment.

Search

[Home](#) [Newsroom](#) [Media](#) [Administration](#) [NJ's Priorities](#) [Contact Us](#)

[Press Releases](#) [Public Addresses](#) [Executive Orders](#) [Press Kit](#) [Reports](#)

[Home](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [Press Releases](#) > 2015 > [Governor Christie Takes Action On Pending Legislation](#)

Governor Christie Takes Action On Pending Legislation

Monday, January 11, 2016 Tags: [Bill Action](#)



Stay Connected
with Social Media

Stay Connected
with Email Alerts

LIKE THIS PAGE? SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#) ...

Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie today took action on legislation, including a bill aimed at helping inmates who were victims of domestic violence and a second bill designed to help non-violent drug offenders reclaim their lives by streamlining the process for expungement of their criminal records.

The Governor suggested minor changes to strengthen Senate Bill No. 995, which seeks to help domestic violence victims who have been convicted of crimes against their abusers by establishing a community reentry program to assist victim-offenders assimilate into society upon release from custody and prevent further victimization.

Governor Christie conditionally vetoed the bill, proposing that the program be established solely in the Department of Corrections.

"The goal of this bill is commendable and I sincerely support its objective," Governor Christie said. "Domestic violence is tragic, and victims deserve support and counseling. However, the bill conflates the statutory and regulatory responsibilities of the Department of Corrections and the State Parole Board, combining the agencies' separate residential program functions. Accordingly, I suggest minor amendments, in accordance with the intent of the legislation to establish this program within the Department of Corrections, consistent with its existing reintegration programming and tailored to the specific needs of this limited inmate population."

The bill as written also called for an automatic early release program for this specific subset of inmates upon successful completion of the reentry program, an element of the bill that Governor Christie does not support.

"I cannot support the creation of early release programs because they would begin to chisel away at the long-standing function of the State Parole Board," Governor Christie said. "For decades, the State Parole Board has faithfully fulfilled its charge to carefully review and consider the underlying facts and circumstances of each applicant for parole. While I continue to encourage the Legislature to explore reforms that will create efficiencies in State government, I remain grounded in my belief that the review of parole applications is best accomplished through the reasoned, compassionate, experienced and individualized judgment of the State Parole Board and not through an automatic process based upon one factor."

Governor Christie similarly took action to strengthen the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bills Nos. 206, 471, 1663, 2879, 3060 and 3108, and urged quick approval from the Legislature.

The bill proposes to allow those who have successfully completed the Drug Court program to expunge the related criminal charges, and it further aims to make the expungement process more efficient.

Seeking to balance the needs of non-violent ex-offenders with public safety, Governor Christie conditionally vetoed the bill, retaining the current waiting period for expungements for indictable offenses, currently 10 years, or five years if a court determines that expungement is in the public's interest.

"While I support breaking down barriers to employment and education for non-violent ex-offenders, I cannot endorse a bill that compromises public safety," Governor Christie said. "As written, this bill would cut in half the presumptive waiting period to expunge indictable offenses, often felonies, from ten years to five years, and eliminate an important safeguard which allows a judge to consider whether granting an expungement is in the public's interest. The current public interest exception to the presumptive waiting period is an effective and efficient way to help ex-offenders combat the collateral consequences of their offense, while also ensuring that public safety is not compromised."

Governor Christie further suggested retaining the five-year waiting period for disorderly persons offenses, while adopting the bill's provision to lower this waiting period to three years, if a court determines that expungement is in the public interest.

The Governor also took the following action on other pending legislation:

BILL SIGNINGS:

S-475/A-3223 (Madden, Sweeney/Mosquera, Webber, Moriarty, Mukherji, Garcia, Munoz, Lampitt) - Requires certain information regarding Down syndrome be provided to certain parents and families

S-650 (Doherty, Beach/DiMaio, Andrzejczak, Peterson, DeAngelo) - Designates State Route 173 between Clinton and Phillipsburg as "173rd Airborne Brigade Highway"

S-835/A-1972 (Bateman/Garcia, Danielson) - Enhances penalties for false incrimination and making fictitious reports

S-939/A-2913 (Bateman, A.R. Bucco/Caride, Dancer, A.M. Bucco) - Designates Black Swallowtail butterfly as State Butterfly

S-1940/A-2893 (Oroho, Van Drew/Burzichelli, Space) - Exempts board of education and local government payments to entities under BPU jurisdiction from certain certification requirements

S-2145/A-631 (Van Drew, Madden/Moriarty, Burzichelli, Tucker, DeAngelo, Danielson, Mukherji) - Authorizes hiring preference for veterans in non-civil service jurisdictions

S-2301/A-3522 (Greenstein, Stack/Stender, Mukherji, Lagana, Diegnan) - Regulates pharmacy benefits managers and requires certain disclosures concerning multiple source generic drug pricing

S-2432/A-4720 (Madden/Moriarty, Mosquera) - Requires notification of member or retiree of State-administered retirement system under certain circumstances when member or retiree requests change in beneficiary for group life insurance

S-2453/A-3805 (Weinberg, Allen/Burzichelli, Singleton) - Requires earlier mandatory polling hours for school elections; requires discretionary additional polling hours be consistent with current primary and general elections

S-2523/A-3917 (Gill, Greenstein, Benson/DeAngelo, Johnson) - Permits municipalities and municipal parking authorities to create Senior Citizen Priority Parking Program

SCS for S-2586, 2587, A-3217, and 3218 (Stack, Cunningham, Mukherji, Pintor Marin, Garcia) - Requires certain sanitary and protective procedures for used mattresses

SCS for S-2668/A-4270 (Beach, Madden/Lampitt, Vainieri Huttle, Benson, Spencer, Wimberly, Mosquera) - Establishes "MVP Emergency Alert System" for missing persons with mental, intellectual, or developmental disabilities

SS for S-2770/AS for A-3956 (Sweeney, Addiego/Lampitt, Greenwald, Vainieri Huttle, Benson, Mazzeo) - Authorizes establishment of Achieving a Better Life Experience accounts for persons with certain disabilities

S-2940/A-4531 (Singer, Sweeney/Spencer, Benson, Casagrande, Muoio) - Creates new criminal offenses concerning endangering another person; repeals N.J.S.2C:12-2 and N.J.S.2C:24-7

S-2961/A-4188 (Codey, Vitale/Garcia, Lagana, Taliaferro, Vainieri Huttle, Danielsens, Holley, Benson, Jimenez) - Clarifies that Alzheimer's disease and related disorders may be listed as secondary cause of death on death certificate when appropriate

S-2978/A-4194 (Van Drew, Oroho/Burzichelli, Spencer, Rumana, Webber, Benson) - Authorizes mobile electronic waste destruction units to operate without DEP permit

S-3004/A-4685 (Cunningham, Van Drew/Andrzejczak, Johnson, Muoio, Wimberly) - Permits municipality with UEZ to participate in Downtown Business Improvements Zone Loan Fund

S-3076/A-4621 (Weinberg, Bateman/Johnson, Caride) - Increases maximum legal fee to represent victims from \$1,000 to \$3,000

S-3110/A-4617 (Scutari/Johnson, Webber) - Permits certain health clubs to offer swimming lessons and otherwise remain exempt from first aid personnel and lifeguarding requirements

S-3117/A-4781 (Gordon, Bateman, Sweeney, T. Kean/Vainieri Huttle, Eustace, Gusciora, Lampitt, Angelini, Moriarty) - Prohibits Division of Developmental Disabilities from compelling transfers of individuals with developmental disabilities from out-of-State to in-State facilities unless certain exceptions apply

S-3220/A-4790 (Sweeney, O'Toole, Vitale/Greenwald, Conaway, Vainieri Huttle, Handlin, Garcia) - Establishes a process to integrate certain health data and other data from publicly supported programs for population health research

S-3232/A-4834 (Sarlo, Oroho/Lagana, Burzichelli, Schaer, DeAngelo, Phoebus) - Allows businesses due to receive grant under Business Employment Incentive Program to receive tax credit instead of grant

S-3270/A-4705 (Gill, Bateman/Schaer, Coughlin, Lagana, S. Kean, Ciattarelli) - "Certificates of Insurance Act;" governs use of certificates of insurance; provides DOBI with enforcement authority

SJR-81/AJR-122 (Barnes/Vainieri Huttle, Schaer, Lampitt) - Condemns Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement against Israel

A-308/S-2203 (Russo, Rumana/O'Toole, Smith) - Prohibits escrow agent evaluation services from charging escrow agents fees

A-1098/S-671 (Vainieri Huttle, Eustace, Diegnan, Giblin/Pou, Sarlo, Weinberg) - Requires DHS and DMVA to conduct or contract for follow-up studies of former residents transitioning to community from their facilities

A-1355/S-2963 (Stender, Lampitt, Holley, Moriarty/T. Kean, Vitale) - Requires DOH to provide information about crib safety on its Internet website

A-1783/S-2020 (McKeon, Rible, Sumter, Moriarty/Vitale, Cunningham) - "Art Therapist Licensing Act"

A-2023/S-2675 (Greenwald, Benson/Cruz-Perez) - Revises definition of "responsible charge" as it pertains to licensed professional engineers and licensed architects

A-2229 (Wisniewski, Diegnan) - Concerns contracts for asphalt work under the "Local Public Contracts Law"

A-2301/S-1481 (Andrzejczak/Van Drew) - Designates certain interchanges of Garden State Parkway in honor of Melvin M. Loftus and Christopher Meyer

A-3052/S-1090 (Mazzeo, Pinkin, Mukherji, Wimberly/A.R. Bucco, Whelan) - Concerns property taxes due and owing on real property damaged or destroyed during, or as the result of, a natural disaster when a state of emergency is declared by the Governor

A-3246/S-3069 (Dancer, Burzichelli, Vainieri Huttle/Oroho, Sarlo) - Requires timeframe of standardbred mare residing in New Jersey breeding farm be inclusive of foaling instead of between foal's conception and birth

A-3293/S-2146 (Mazzeo, Andrzejczak, Pinkin, Webber, Simon, Mukherji/Van Drew, Doherty) - Allows military personnel and veterans to present certain identifying documents in lieu of municipal beach tags to gain admission to certain beaches

A-3331/S-3111 (Benson, Rodriguez-Gregg, Coughlin/Gill, Beach) - Requires health benefits coverage for synchronization of prescribed medications under certain circumstances

A-3390/S-2309 (Coughlin, Pinkin, Webber, Diegnan/Vitale) - Permits transmittal of certain land use documents via email

A-3395/S-2294 (Wisniewski/Sacco) - Allows insurer to obtain certificates of ownership or salvage certificates of title for motor vehicles under certain circumstances

A-3499/S-2256 (Andrzejczak, Mazzeo, Johnson, Pinkin, DeAngelo/Van Drew) - Requires DMVA to encourage and facilitate returning service members' registration with VA

A-3507/S-2677 (Eustace, Webber, Munoz, Schepisi, Rumana/Gordon, Sarlo) - Amends law concerning county and municipal stream cleaning activities

A-3749/S-2568 (Lampitt, Mazzeo, Andrzejczak, Mukherji, Pinkin/Beach, Allen) - Establishes program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to medical counseling in State

A-3849/SCS for S-2466 (DeAngelo, Eustace, Mazzeo, Pintor Marin, Benson/Turner, Singer) - Requires BPU to provide links to pricing information to customers from electric and gas public utilities, and third-party electric power and gas suppliers

A-3950/S-2832 (Prieto, Jimenez, Quijano/Greenstein, Turner) - Permits correctional facilities to utilize body imaging scanning equipment

A-4079/S-2819 (Eustace, Andrzejczak, Taliaferro, Benson, Dancer/Van Drew, Beach) - Directs Department of Agriculture to publish on its website "New Jersey Gleaning Week" and "Farmers Against Hunger Day" page

A-4094/S-2884 (Conaway, Singleton, Wimberly, Lampitt, Benson/Whelan, Madden) - Permits administration of epinephrine auto-injector device by persons who complete approved educational program

A-4438/S-3202 (Mukherji, Burzichelli/Scutari, Madden) - Raises maximum workers' compensation fees for evaluating physicians

A-4518/S-3010 (Schaer, Eustace, Benson, Pintor Marin/Sarlo) - Modifies and clarifies provisions of certain economic incentive programs

AJR-57/SJR-42 (Space/Oroho) - Designates April of each year as "Sarcoidosis Awareness Month"

AJR-93/SJR-73 (Eustace, Andrzejczak, Taliaferro, Benson/Van Drew, Beach) - Designates third week of September as "New Jersey Gleaning Week"

AJR-94/SJR-74 (Eustace, Andrzejczak, Taliaferro, Benson/Van Drew, Beach) - Designates Wednesday of third week of September as "Farmers Against Hunger Day"

AJR-100/SJR-70 (Andrzejczak, Tucker, DeAngelo, Mazzeo/Van Drew, Whelan) - Designates first week in August of each year as "Coast Guard Week" and honors Cape May as U.S. Coast Guard's enlisted accession point and recruit training center

BILLS VETOED:

S-264/A-1347 (Greenstein, Cunningham/Stender, Egan, O'Donnell, Wimberly) – **ABSOLUTE** - "Thomas P. Canzanella Twenty First Century First Responders Protection Act"; concerns workers compensation for public safety workers

S-374/A-3403 (Scutari, Beck/Rible, DeAngelo, Mukherji) - **ABSOLUTE** - Concerns attorney fees for workers' compensation awards

SCS for S-779, 1952/ACS for A-2474 (Weinberg, Sarlo, Lesniak/Johnson, Garcia, Vainieri Huttie, Lagana, Mukherji, Moriarty) - **ABSOLUTE** - "Garden State Film and Digital Media Jobs Act" expands existing film and digital media production tax credit programs

S-995/A-1677 (Weinberg, Allen/Johnson, Vainieri Huttie, Lampitt, Mosquera) – **CONDITIONAL** - Establishes in DOC, supervised community reintegration program for certain victims of domestic abuse

S-1346/A-3837 (Rice/Coughlin, Garcia, Rodriguez-Gregg, Pintor Marin, Jasey) - **CONDITIONAL** - Concerns the recording of mortgages

S-2260/A-688 (Scutari, Cardinale/Schaer) - **CONDITIONAL** - Modifies certain fees charged by, and requirements imposed on, check casher licensees

S-2524/A-4067 (Gill, Allen/Lagana, Singleton, Moriarty) - **CONDITIONAL** - The "Municipal Volunteer Property Tax Reduction Act"; permits certain municipal property owners to perform volunteer services in return for property tax vouchers

S-2577/ACS for A-4139 (Stack, Schaer/Mazzeo, Andrzejczak, Mukherji, Quijano) - **CONDITIONAL** - Establishes temporary mortgage relief programs for certain owners of real property impacted by "Superstorm Sandy"

S-2867/A-4248 (Ruiz, Pou/Jasey, Sumter, Vainieri Huttie, Green, Holley, Wimberly) - **ABSOLUTE** - Permits municipal land banking in conjunction with online property database development

S-3024/A-4463 (Scutari/Giblin, Diegnan, Jimenez, Caputo, Vainieri Huttie) – **CONDITIONAL** - Revises laws concerning real estate licensees

S-3282/A-4850 (Rice, Cunningham/Wimberly, Mainor, Johnson) - **CONDITIONAL** - Expands Police Training Commission membership to include representative from Northern New Jersey and South Jersey Chapters of National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives

ACS for A-206, 471, 1663, 2879, 3060, and 3108/S-2663 (Green, Spencer, Gusciora, Johnson, McKeon, Giblin, Wimberly, Mainor, Quijano/Turner, Lesniak, Pou) - **CONDITIONAL** - Shortens waiting periods for expungement of criminal and other records and information; makes various changes to other expungement procedures and requirements

A-3257/S-2125 (Andrzejczak, Mazzeo, Burzichelli/Van Drew) - **CONDITIONAL** - Provides that determination by county agriculture development board or State Agriculture Development Committee as to what qualifies as farm-based recreational activity in pinelands protection area is binding on Pinelands Commission

A-4103/S-2840 (Mazzeo, Andrzejczak, Giblin/Allen, Whelan) - **ABSOLUTE** - Creates workforce training program for former casino workers

A-4233/S-2435 (Jasey, McKeon, Vainieri Huttie, Mukherji, Lampitt/Codey, Vitale) - **ABSOLUTE** - Provides Medicaid coverage for advance care planning

A-4275/S2831 (Prieto, Eustace, Lagana, Greewald, Quijano, Danielsen, Mukherji/Sweeney, Turner, Sarlo) – **CONDITIONAL** - "New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Program Act"; establishes retirement savings program for certain workers

A-4326/S-2942 (Schaer, Lagana, Eustace, Prieto/Gordon, Barnes) - **ABSOLUTE** - Reforms annual State revenue estimating and reporting, and executive State budget presentation and revenue certification processes

A-4386/S-3042 (Coughlin, Pinkin/Vitale, Singer) - **CONDITIONAL** - Permits candidates for school board to circulate petitions jointly and be bracketed together on ballot; permits short nonpolitical designation of principles on petitions and ballots; provides for study of impact of changes

A-4638/S-3118 (Vainieri Huttie, Singleton, Holley, Mosquera, Tucker, Benson/Sweeney, Madden) - **ABSOLUTE** - Requires DCPP to implement policies and procedures to ensure caseworker safety; "Leah's Law"

A-4703/S-3172 (Spencer, Tucker, Pintor Marin, Egan, Muoio, Gusciora/Rice, Smith) - **ABSOLUTE** - Increases tax credit cap by \$165 million for certain qualified residential projects under Economic Redevelopment and Growth Grant program and restricts increase to certain projects

###

Press Contact:
Brian Murray
609-777-2600



[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Legal Statement & Disclaimers](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) | 

Statewide: [NJ Home](#) | [Services A to Z](#) | [Departments/Agencies](#) | [FAQs](#)
Office of the Governor: [Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2017
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000