

40A:9-78.8 to 40A:9-78.14
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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LAWS OF: 2022 **CHAPTER:** 59

NJSA: 40A:9-78.8 to 40A:9-78.14
(Permits county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages to issue identification card to Gold Star Family Member.)

BILL NO: A1455 (Substituted for S1596)

SPONSOR(S) Yvonne Lopez and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 1/11/2022

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Military and Veterans' Affairs
 SENATE: Military and Veterans' Affairs

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 6/29/2022
 SENATE: 6/29/2022

DATE OF APPROVAL: 7/5/2022

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (First Reprint enacted) Yes

A1455

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

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

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S1596

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No
 SENATE: Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: Yes

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. 2022, CHAPTER 59, *approved July 5, 2022*
Assembly, No. 1455 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning identification cards issued by a county clerk or
2 register of deeds and mortgages for a Gold Star Family Member
3 and amending P.L.2017, c.289.

4

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

7

8 1. Section 1 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.8) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 1. Sections 1 through 8 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.8 et
11 seq.) shall be known and may be cited as the "County Identification
12 Cards for Gold Star **Parents** Families Act."

13 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.1)

14

15 2. Section 2 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.9) is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 2. As used in this act, P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.8 et seq.),
18 "Gold Star **Parent** Family Member" means ¹**],** whether of the
19 whole or half blood or by adoption, as applicable, a spouse,
20 domestic partner, partner in a civil union, **]** ^a parent, legal guardian
21 or other legal custodian, **[**whether of the whole or half blood or by
22 adoption, **]** ¹**[**or child related by blood or by law to, or a spouse,
23 domestic partner, or partner in civil union¹ of ¹, ¹ a member of the
24 Armed Forces of the United States who died while on active duty
25 for the United States ¹, or a child to whom the member was a
26 parent, legal guardian or other legal custodian, whether related by
27 blood or by law¹.

28 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.2)

29

30 3. Section 3 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.10) is amended to
31 read as follows:

32 3. A county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as
33 appropriate, may establish a Gold Star **Parent** Family
34 identification card program for the sole purpose of identifying the
35 holder as a Gold Star **Parent** Family Member when such
36 identification is required to receive discounts or other courtesies
37 extended to military families.

38 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.3)

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's
recommendations June 29, 2022.

1 4. Section 4 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.11) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 4. When such a program has been authorized, the county clerk
4 or register of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate, shall issue an
5 identification card to any Gold Star **【Parent】** Family Member who
6 is a resident of the county. The Gold Star **【Parent】** Family
7 identification card shall display the words "Gold Star **【Parent】**
8 Family Member," bear the true name and branch of the armed
9 forces in which the person who lost his or her life while on active
10 duty for the United States served, and other identifying information
11 as certified by the applicant for the Gold Star **【Parent】** Family
12 identification card. Every application for a Gold Star **【Parent】**
13 Family identification card shall be signed and certified by the
14 applicant and shall be supported by such documentary evidence as
15 the county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate,
16 may require.

17 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.4)

18

19 5. Section 5 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.12) is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 5. a. Application for issuance of a Gold Star **【Parent】** Family
22 identification card shall be made in a manner prescribed by the
23 county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate. In
24 order to be deemed complete, an application shall be accompanied
25 by proof satisfactory to the county clerk or register of deeds and
26 mortgages, as appropriate, that the applicant is a **【parent】** family
27 member of a member of the armed forces who died while on active
28 duty for the United States. Proof satisfactory may include any or all
29 of the following:

30 (1) a certification of an organization formed for the support of
31 parents or other family members of members of the armed forces
32 who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States **【,】**
33 that the applicant is **【either the】** , whether of the whole or half
34 blood or by adoption, as applicable, a spouse, domestic partner,
35 partner in a civil union, parent, legal guardian or other legal
36 custodian, **【whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption,】** or
37 child of a member of the armed forces who died while on active
38 duty for the United States;

39 (2) the service member's federal DD Form 1300, Report of
40 Casualty, or its succeeding form, which identifies the member of
41 the armed forces who died while on active duty for the United
42 States; and

43 (3) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the
44 service member.

45 The copy of the DD Form 1300 and the application shall be kept
46 confidential and shall not be considered a government record under

1 P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), except that they may be released
2 to another government agency.

3 b. The county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as
4 appropriate, may consult with a representative of the Department of
5 New Jersey of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other
6 organization formed for the support of parents or other family
7 members of members of the armed forces who lost their lives while
8 on active duty for the United States or the Adjutant General of the
9 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs when establishing the
10 documentation that may constitute satisfactory proof of an
11 applicant's relationship to the service member. In instances where
12 an applicant is unable to produce documentation deemed
13 acceptable, the Adjutant General shall assist in making a
14 determination of the applicant's eligibility for a Gold Star **【Parent】**
15 Family **【Identification】** identification card.

16 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.5)

17

18 6. Section 6 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.13) is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 6. It shall be unlawful for any person:

21 a. To display or cause or permit to be displayed or have in the
22 person's possession any canceled, fictitious, fraudulently altered, or
23 fraudulently obtained Gold Star **【Parent】** Family identification
24 card;

25 b. To lend the Gold Star **【Parent】** Family identification card to
26 any other person or knowingly permit the use thereof by another;

27 c. To display or represent any Gold Star **【Parent】** Family
28 identification card not issued to the person as being the person's
29 card;

30 d. To permit any unlawful use of a Gold Star **【Parent】** Family
31 identification card issued to the person;

32 e. To photograph, photostat, duplicate, or in any way reproduce
33 any Gold Star **【Parent】** Family identification card or facsimile
34 thereof in such a manner that it could be mistaken for a valid Gold
35 Star **【Parent】** Family identification card, or to display or have in the
36 person's possession any such photograph, photostat, duplicate,
37 reproduction, or facsimile; or

38 f. To alter any Gold Star **【Parent】** Family identification card in
39 any manner.

40 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.6)

41

42 7. Section 7 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.14) is amended to
43 read as follows:

44 7. The Gold Star **【Parent】** Family identification card issued
45 under P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.8 et seq.), shall not be deemed
46 sufficient valid proof of identity for official governmental purposes

1 when a statute, regulation, or directive of a governmental entity
2 requires proof of identity.
3 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.7)

4

5 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

6

7

8

9

10 Permits county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages to issue
11 identification card to Gold Star Family member.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1455

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

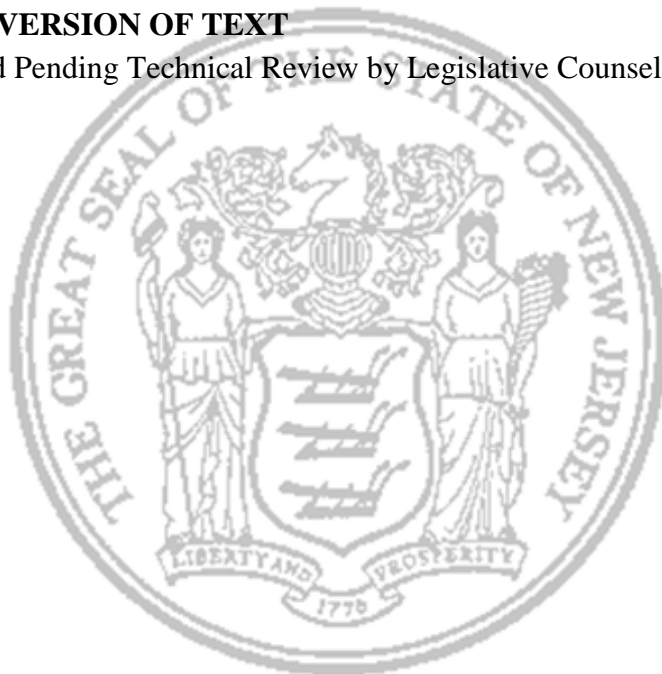
Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywoman Gove, Assemblymen Wirths, Space, Stanley, Conaway and Assemblywoman McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Permits county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages to issue identification card to Gold Star Family member.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



A1455 LOPEZ, DANCER

2

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2 register of deeds and mortgages for a Gold Star Family Member
3 and amending P.L.2017, c.289.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
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8 1. Section 1 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.8) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 1. Sections 1 through 8 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.8 et
11 seq.) shall be known and may be cited as the "County Identification
12 Cards for Gold Star [Parents] Families Act."
13 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.1)
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15 2. Section 2 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.9) is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 2. As used in this act, P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.8 et seq.),
18 "Gold Star [Parent] Family Member" means , whether of the whole
19 or half blood or by adoption, as applicable, a spouse, domestic
20 partner, partner in a civil union, parent, legal guardian or other legal
21 custodian, [whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption,] or
22 child of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who
23 died while on active duty for the United States.
24 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.2)
25

26 3. Section 3 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.10) is amended to
27 read as follows:

28 3. A county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as
29 appropriate, may establish a Gold Star [Parent] Family
30 identification card program for the sole purpose of identifying the
31 holder as a Gold Star [Parent] Family Member when such
32 identification is required to receive discounts or other courtesies
33 extended to military families.
34 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.3)
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36 4. Section 4 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.11) is amended to
37 read as follows:

38 4. When such a program has been authorized, the county clerk
39 or register of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate, shall issue an
40 identification card to any Gold Star [Parent] Family Member who is
41 a resident of the county. The Gold Star [Parent] Family
42 identification card shall display the words "Gold Star [Parent]
43 Family Member," bear the true name and branch of the armed
44 forces in which the person who lost his or her life while on active
45 duty for the United States served, and other identifying information

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 as certified by the applicant for the Gold Star [Parent] Family
2 identification card. Every application for a Gold Star [Parent]
3 Family identification card shall be signed and certified by the
4 applicant and shall be supported by such documentary evidence as
5 the county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate,
6 may require.

7 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.4)

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9 5. Section 5 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.12) is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 5. a. Application for issuance of a Gold Star [Parent] Family
12 identification card shall be made in a manner prescribed by the
13 county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate. In
14 order to be deemed complete, an application shall be accompanied
15 by proof satisfactory to the county clerk or register of deeds and
16 mortgages, as appropriate, that the applicant is a [parent] family
17 member of a member of the armed forces who died while on active
18 duty for the United States. Proof satisfactory may include any or all
19 of the following:

20 (1) a certification of an organization formed for the support of
21 parents or other family members of members of the armed forces
22 who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States [,]
23 that the applicant is [either the] , whether of the whole or half blood
24 or by adoption, as applicable, a spouse, domestic partner, partner in
25 a civil union, parent, legal guardian or other legal custodian,
26 [whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption,] or child of a
27 member of the armed forces who died while on active duty for the
28 United States;

29 (2) the service member's federal DD Form 1300, Report of
30 Casualty, or its succeeding form, which identifies the member of
31 the armed forces who died while on active duty for the United
32 States; and

33 (3) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the
34 service member.

35 The copy of the DD Form 1300 and the application shall be kept
36 confidential and shall not be considered a government record under
37 P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), except that they may be released
38 to another government agency.

39 b. The county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as
40 appropriate, may consult with a representative of the Department of
41 New Jersey of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other
42 organization formed for the support of parents or other family
43 members of members of the armed forces who lost their lives while
44 on active duty for the United States or the Adjutant General of the
45 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs when establishing the
46 documentation that may constitute satisfactory proof of an
47 applicant's relationship to the service member. In instances where
48 an applicant is unable to produce documentation deemed

1 acceptable, the Adjutant General shall assist in making a
2 determination of the applicant's eligibility for a Gold Star [Parent]
3 Family [Identification] identification card.

4 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.5)

5

6 6. Section 6 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.13) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 6. It shall be unlawful for any person:

9 a. To display or cause or permit to be displayed or have in the
10 person's possession any canceled, fictitious, fraudulently altered, or
11 fraudulently obtained Gold Star [Parent] Family identification card;

12 b. To lend the Gold Star [Parent] Family identification card to
13 any other person or knowingly permit the use thereof by another;

14 c. To display or represent any Gold Star [Parent] Family
15 identification card not issued to the person as being the person's
16 card;

17 d. To permit any unlawful use of a Gold Star [Parent] Family
18 identification card issued to the person;

19 e. To photograph, photostat, duplicate, or in any way reproduce
20 any Gold Star [Parent] Family identification card or facsimile
21 thereof in such a manner that it could be mistaken for a valid Gold
22 Star [Parent] Family identification card, or to display or have in the
23 person's possession any such photograph, photostat, duplicate,
24 reproduction, or facsimile; or

25 f. To alter any Gold Star [Parent] Family identification card in
26 any manner.

27 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.6)

28

29 7. Section 7 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.14) is amended to
30 read as follows:

31 7. The Gold Star [Parent] Family identification card issued
32 under P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.8 et seq.), shall not be deemed
33 sufficient valid proof of identity for official governmental purposes
34 when a statute, regulation, or directive of a governmental entity
35 requires proof of identity.

36 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.7)

37

38 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

39

40

41

STATEMENT

42

43 This bill permits county clerks or registers of deeds and
44 mortgages, as appropriate, to issue an identification card to Gold
45 Star Families.

46 Under current law, county clerks or registers of deeds and
47 mortgages, as appropriate, may issue an identification card to a
48 Gold Star Parent. The bill expands eligibility for an identification

1 card to include a Gold Star family member, which under the bill is,
2 whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, as applicable, a
3 spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, legal
4 guardian or other legal custodian, or child of a member of the
5 Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard, who died
6 while on active duty for the United States.

7 The cards are designed to help the families of members of the
8 armed forces who lost their lives while on active duty for the United
9 States receive discounts or other courtesies extended to military
10 families.

11 Proof of status may include any or all of the following:

12 (1) a certification from an organization formed for the support
13 of parents or other family members of members of the armed forces
14 who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States, that
15 the applicant is, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption,
16 as applicable, a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union,
17 parent, legal guardian or other legal custodian, or child of a member
18 of the armed forces who died while on active duty for the United
19 States;

20 (2) the service member's federal DD Form 1300, Report of
21 Casualty, which identifies the member of the armed forces who died
22 while on active duty for the United States; and

23 (3) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the
24 service member.

25 The DD Form 1300 and the application will be kept confidential
26 and will not be considered a government record under the open
27 public records act.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 1455

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 7, 2022

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1455.

This bill permits county clerks or registers of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate, to issue an identification card to Gold Star Families.

Under current law, county clerks or registers of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate, may issue an identification card to a Gold Star Parent. The bill expands eligibility for an identification card to include a Gold Star family member, which under the bill is, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, as applicable, a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, legal guardian or other legal custodian, or child of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard, who died while on active duty for the United States.

The cards are designed to help the families of members of the armed forces who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States receive discounts or other courtesies extended to military families.

Proof of status may include any or all of the following:

(1) a certification from an organization formed for the support of parents or other family members of members of the armed forces who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States, that the applicant is, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, as applicable, a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, legal guardian or other legal custodian, or child of a member of the armed forces who died while on active duty for the United States;

(2) the service member's federal DD Form 1300, Report of Casualty, which identifies the member of the armed forces who died while on active duty for the United States; and

(3) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the service member.

The DD Form 1300 and the application will be kept confidential and will not be considered a government record under the open public records act.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 1455

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 21, 2022

The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1455.

This bill permits county clerks or registers of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate, to issue an identification card to Gold Star Families.

Under current law, county clerks or registers of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate, may issue an identification card to a Gold Star Parent. The bill expands eligibility for an identification card to include a Gold Star family member, which under the bill is, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, as applicable, a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, legal guardian or other legal custodian, or child of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard, who died while on active duty for the United States.

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(2) the service member's federal DD Form 1300, Report of Casualty, which identifies the member of the armed forces who died while on active duty for the United States; and

(3) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the service member.

The DD Form 1300 and the application will be kept confidential and will not be considered a government record under the open public records act.

Assembly Bill No. 1455 is identical to Senate Bill No. 1596 of 2022-2023.

SENATE, No. 1596

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Cruz-Perez and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Permits county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages to issue identification card to Gold Star Family member.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/26/2022)

S1596 BEACH

2

1 AN ACT concerning identification cards issued by a county clerk or
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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
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21 custodian, [whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption,] or
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42 identification card shall display the words "Gold Star **Parent**
43 Family Member," bear the true name and branch of the armed
44 forces in which the person who lost his or her life while on active
45 duty for the United States served, and other identifying information

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.

S1596 BEACH

1 as certified by the applicant for the Gold Star **Parent** Family
2 identification card. Every application for a Gold Star **Parent**
3 Family identification card shall be signed and certified by the
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5 the county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate,
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23 that the applicant is **either the** , whether of the whole or half
24 blood or by adoption, as applicable, a spouse, domestic partner,
25 partner in a civil union, parent, legal guardian or other legal
26 custodian, **whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption,** **or**
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38 to another government agency.

39 b. The county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as
40 appropriate, may consult with a representative of the Department of
41 New Jersey of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other
42 organization formed for the support of parents or other family
43 members of members of the armed forces who lost their lives while
44 on active duty for the United States or the Adjutant General of the
45 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs when establishing the
46 documentation that may constitute satisfactory proof of an
47 applicant's relationship to the service member. In instances where

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4

1 an applicant is unable to produce documentation deemed
2 acceptable, the Adjutant General shall assist in making a
3 determination of the applicant's eligibility for a Gold Star **【Parent】**
4 Family **【Identification】** identification card.

5 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.5)

6

7 6. Section 6 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.13) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 6. It shall be unlawful for any person:

10 a. To display or cause or permit to be displayed or have in the
11 person's possession any canceled, fictitious, fraudulently altered, or
12 fraudulently obtained Gold Star **【Parent】** Family identification
13 card;

14 b. To lend the Gold Star **【Parent】** Family identification card to
15 any other person or knowingly permit the use thereof by another;

16 c. To display or represent any Gold Star **【Parent】** Family
17 identification card not issued to the person as being the person's
18 card;

19 d. To permit any unlawful use of a Gold Star **【Parent】** Family
20 identification card issued to the person;

21 e. To photograph, photostat, duplicate, or in any way reproduce
22 any Gold Star **【Parent】** Family identification card or facsimile
23 thereof in such a manner that it could be mistaken for a valid Gold
24 Star **【Parent】** Family identification card, or to display or have in the
25 person's possession any such photograph, photostat, duplicate,
26 reproduction, or facsimile; or

27 f. To alter any Gold Star **【Parent】** Family identification card in
28 any manner.

29 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.6)

30

31 7. Section 7 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.14) is amended to
32 read as follows:

33 7. The Gold Star **【Parent】** Family identification card issued
34 under P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.8 et seq.), shall not be deemed
35 sufficient valid proof of identity for official governmental purposes
36 when a statute, regulation, or directive of a governmental entity
37 requires proof of identity.

38 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.7)

39

40 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

41

42

43

STATEMENT

44

45 This bill permits county clerks or registers of deeds and
46 mortgages, as appropriate, to issue an identification card to Gold
47 Star Families.

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1 Under current law, county clerks or registers of deeds and
2 mortgages, as appropriate, may issue an identification card to a
3 Gold Star Parent. The bill expands eligibility for an identification
4 card to include a Gold Star Family Member, which under the bill is,
5 whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, as applicable, a
6 spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, legal
7 guardian or other legal custodian, or child of a member of the
8 Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard, who died
9 while on active duty for the United States.

10 The cards are designed to help the families of members of the
11 armed forces who lost their lives while on active duty for the United
12 States receive discounts or other courtesies extended to military
13 families.

14 Proof of status may include any or all of the following:

15 (1) a certification from an organization formed for the support
16 of parents or other family members of members of the armed forces
17 who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States, that
18 the applicant is, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption,
19 as applicable, a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union,
20 parent, legal guardian or other legal custodian, or child of a member
21 of the armed forces who died while on active duty for the United
22 States;

23 (2) the service member's federal DD Form 1300, Report of
24 Casualty, which identifies the member of the armed forces who died
25 while on active duty for the United States; and

26 (3) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the
27 service member.

28 The DD Form 1300 and the application will be kept confidential
29 and will not be considered a government record under the open
30 public records act.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1596

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 21, 2022

The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1596.

This bill permits county clerks or registers of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate, to issue an identification card to Gold Star Families.

Under current law, county clerks or registers of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate, may issue an identification card to a Gold Star Parent. The bill expands eligibility for an identification card to include a Gold Star Family Member, which under the bill is, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, as applicable, a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, legal guardian or other legal custodian, or child of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard, who died while on active duty for the United States.

The cards are designed to help the families of members of the armed forces who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States receive discounts or other courtesies extended to military families.

Proof of status may include any or all of the following:

(1) a certification from an organization formed for the support of parents or other family members of members of the armed forces who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States, that the applicant is, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, as applicable, a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, legal guardian or other legal custodian, or child of a member of the armed forces who died while on active duty for the United States;

(2) the service member's federal DD Form 1300, Report of Casualty, which identifies the member of the armed forces who died while on active duty for the United States; and

(3) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the service member.

The DD Form 1300 and the application will be kept confidential and will not be considered a government record under the open public records act.

Senate Bill No. 1596 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1455 of 2022-2023.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1455

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 1455 with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill renames the "County Identification Cards for Gold Star Parents Act" the "County Identification Cards for Gold Star Families Act" and expands identification card eligibility beyond parents, legal guardians, or other legal custodians to include additional close family members of service members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while on active duty. These identification cards provide a small, yet meaningful, token of appreciation for the hardships faced by families of these service members by enabling family members to easily identify themselves in order to receive discounts and other courtesies extended to military families. I commend the bill's sponsors for recognizing the important roles these family members play alongside the great men and women of our Armed Forces and for rightly seeking to expand the program to include the spouses, civil union and domestic partners, and children of service members.

I am advised, however, that this bill inadvertently omits children whose legal guardian or custodian died in the line of active duty from the definition of "Gold Star Family Member." In close collaboration with the bill's sponsors, I am therefore recommending minor revisions clarifying that the program extends to all children to whom a Gold Star service member was a parent, a legal guardian, or other legal custodian. I look forward to signing this bill into law following the Legislature's adoption of this correction.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 1455 and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Section 2, Lines 18-20: Delete ", whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, as applicable, a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union," and insert "a"

Page 2, Section 2, Lines 21-22: Delete ", or child" and insert "related by blood or by law to, or a spouse, domestic partner, or partner in a civil union"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 22: Before "a" insert ", "

Page 2, Section 2, Line 23: After "States" insert ", or a child to whom the member was a parent, legal guardian or other legal custodian, whether related by blood or by law"

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

07/5/2022

TRENTON – Today, Governor Phil Murphy signed the following bills into law:

A-1455wGR/S-1596 (Lopez, Dancer, DeAngelo/Beach) - Permits county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages to issue identification card to Gold Star Family member

ACS for A-3196/S-2349 (Caputo, Lampitt, Jasey, Jaffer/Turner, Diegnan) - Requires State Board of Education to administer New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment as field test for class of 2023

A-4091/S-2729 (Swain, Conaway/Lagana, Singleton) - Makes County Option Hospital Fee Pilot Program permanent and expands definition of “participating county” under program

A-4214/S-2770 (Jaffer, Moen, Wimberly, Benson/Zwicker, Singleton) - Authorizes NJ Infrastructure Bank to expend certain sums to make loans for transportation infrastructure projects for FY2023; makes appropriation

A-4222/S-2796 (Freiman, Egan, Calabrese/Gopal, Lagana) - Expands working hours for minors; updates process for obtaining working papers for minors

A-4255/S-2870 (McKeon, Haider, Kennedy/Smith, Codey) - Revises law requiring registration with DEP of certain entities engaged in soil and fill recycling services