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[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3360

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 23, 2008

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman PETER J. BARNES, III

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman JACK CONNERS

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman RUBEN J. RAMOS, JR.

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman Egan, Assemblywoman Casagrande, Assemblyman Rudder,
Assemblywomen Addiego, Tucker, Wagner, Assemblymen Vas, Prieto,
Assemblywomen Rodriguez, Quijano, Lampitt, Greenstein, Assemblymen
Schaer, Moriarty, Assemblywoman Pou, Senators Allen, Madden, T.Kean,
Beach, Stack, Baroni, Haines, Oroho and Ruiz**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the Troops to College Program in the Commission on Higher Education to assist veterans in making the transition into the college classroom.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee on January 26, 2009, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/26/2009)

1 AN ACT establishing the Troops to College Program and
2 supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Troops to
9 College Act.”

10

11 2. a. The New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, in
12 consultation with the Department of **‘[Veterans’ and Military]**
13 Military and Veterans¹ Affairs, shall establish the Troops to College
14 Program. The purpose of the program shall be to assist New
15 Jersey’s public institutions of higher education in coordinating the
16 provision of a comprehensive array of services to assist veterans in
17 making the transition into the college classroom. The services may
18 include, but need not be limited to, assistance in applying for State
19 and federal student financial aid, counseling resources, a campus
20 veterans’ assistance officer to provide a single point of contact for
21 information on the institution’s benefits and programs for veterans,
22 and an online resource to consolidate pertinent information
23 specifically for veterans attending that institution.

24

25 b. The commission in implementing the Troops to College
26 Program shall include on its Internet site information to assist
27 veterans in accessing the higher education opportunities that exist in
28 the State. The information shall include, but need not be limited to:

29

(1) contact information for the campus veterans’ assistance
officer at each of the public institutions of higher education; and

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(2) information on the array of programs and services available
to veterans at each of the public institutions of higher education.

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3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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 AMV committee amendments adopted January 26, 2009.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3360

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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**Assemblyman Egan, Assemblywoman Casagrande, Assemblyman Rudder,
Assemblywomen Addiego, Tucker, Wagner and Assemblyman Vas**

SYNOPSIS

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CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/27/2009)

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2 supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
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17 classroom. The services may include, but need not be limited to,
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36 *SPONSORS* STATEMENT

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38 This bill requires the New Jersey Commission on Higher
39 Education, in consultation with the Department of Veterans' and
40 Military Affairs, to establish the Troops to College Program. The
41 purpose of the program is to assist New Jersey's public institutions
42 of higher education in coordinating the provision of a
43 comprehensive array of services to assist veterans in making the
44 transition into the college classroom. The services may include:
45 assistance in applying for tuition aid, counseling resources, a
46 campus veterans' assistance officer to provide a single point of
47 contact for information on the institution's benefits and programs

1 for veterans, and an online resource to consolidate pertinent
2 information specifically for veterans attending that institution.

3 Under the program the commission must include certain
4 information on its Internet site which would be designed to assist
5 veterans in accessing the higher education opportunities that exist in
6 the State. The information must include, but need not be limited to:

7 (1) contact information for the campus veterans' assistance
8 officer at each of the public institutions of higher education; and

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10 to veterans at each of the public institutions of higher education.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3360

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 26, 2009

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly, No. 3360.

This bill requires the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, in consultation with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to establish the Troops to College Program. The purpose of the program is to assist New Jersey's public institutions of higher education in coordinating the provision of a comprehensive array of services to assist veterans in making the transition into the college classroom. The services may include: assistance in applying for tuition aid, counseling resources, a campus veterans' assistance officer to provide a single point of contact for information on the institution's benefits and programs for veterans, and an online resource to consolidate pertinent information specifically for veterans attending that institution.

Under the program the commission must include certain information on its Internet site which would be designed to assist veterans in accessing the higher education opportunities that exist in the State. The information must include, but need not be limited to:

- (1) contact information for the campus veterans' assistance officer at each of the public institutions of higher education; and
- (2) information on the array of programs and services available to veterans at each of the public institutions of higher education.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to correct the name of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

SENATE, No. 2171

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 6, 2008

Sponsored by:

Senator DIANE B. ALLEN

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

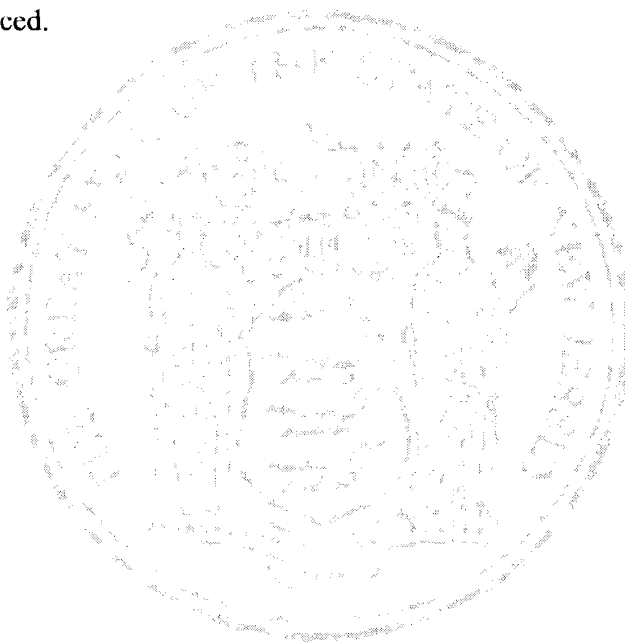
Senator T.Kean

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the Troops to College Program in the Commission on Higher Education to assist veterans in making the transition into the college classroom.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/9/2008)

1 AN ACT establishing the Troops to College Program and
2 supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4

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

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11 2. a. The New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, in
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S2171 ALLEN, MADDEN

3

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8 officer at each of the public institutions of higher education; and

9 (2) information on the array of programs and services available
10 to veterans at each of the public institutions of higher education.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2171

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 8, 2008

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2171 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill requires the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, in consultation with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, to establish the Troops to College Program. The purpose of the program is to assist New Jersey's public institutions of higher education in coordinating the provision of a comprehensive array of services to assist veterans in making the transition into the college classroom. The services may include: assistance in applying for tuition aid, counseling resources, a campus veterans' assistance officer to provide a single point of contact for information on the institution's benefits and programs for veterans, and an online resource to consolidate pertinent information specifically for veterans attending that institution.

Under the program the department must include certain information on its Internet site which would be designed to assist veterans in accessing the higher education opportunities that exist in the State. The information must include, but need not be limited to:

- (1) contact information for the campus veterans' assistance officer at each of the public institutions of higher education; and
- (2) information on the array of programs and services available to veterans at each of the public institutions of higher education.

The committee amended the bill to assign the program to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs. The bill, as introduced, assigned the program to the Commission on Higher Education.



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JON S. CORZINE
Governor**For Immediate Release:**
Date: September 13, 2009**For More Information:**
Robert Corrales**Phone:** 609-777-2600

Governor Signs Legislation Creating Troops to College Program

Signs bills renaming two bridges for state's veterans

EDISON - Just days after the 8th anniversary of 9/11, Governor Jon S. Corzine today signed legislation to help New Jersey's military veterans, including those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, by establishing the "Troops to College" program. The bill, A-3360/S-2171, is designed to assist veterans transition from the military into the college classroom.

"New Jersey's veterans carry on a long tradition of those who have answered their nation's call to action," Governor Corzine said. "The bills I am signing today represent a small down payment on the tremendous debt we owe to our military members - past and present- for defending our nation and our way of life. I believe that the service we provide to our veterans and our soldiers is a duty we cannot ignore and I remain committed to providing all the support we can to our military personnel."

The "Troops to College" program will provide a comprehensive array of services to veterans seeking to enhance their educational opportunities. The initiative includes assistance in applying for State and federal student financial aid, counseling resources, a single point of contact for information on an institution's benefits and programs for veterans as well as an online resource to consolidate pertinent information for veterans. The program will be created within the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education.

"The goal of the Troops to College program is to provide resources and information to veterans looking to further their education. We want our men and women in uniform to know that we support them one hundred percent," said Senator Fred Madden, (D-Camden, Gloucester). "For many New Jerseyans in the military, it has been quite a few years since they graduated from high school, and through this program we can educate them about available financial aid, campus veterans' assistance and other resources designed to help them earn their degrees."

"Our veterans deserve the best, and that includes access to higher education," said Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan Jr., (D-Middlesex). "This plan would make that transition easier and is the right thing to do for those who have sacrificed their time and energy to defend our nation."

"The help we're proposing here includes assistance in applying for tuition aid, counseling resources and a campus veterans' assistance officer to provide a single point of contact for information on the institution's benefits and programs for veterans," said Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes III (D-Middlesex). "This is all basic information that we can offer to our veterans and make their transition easier."

"Veterans are owed our best, and this is one way to help make that reality," said Assemblyman Jack Conners, (D-Burlington/Camden), chairman of the Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. "We all know a higher education is key to so much in our world, and our veterans should not be left behind."

"This is simply an effort to help veterans make that vital transition from the battlefield to the classroom," said Assemblyman Ruben J. Ramos Jr. (D-Hudson). "A college education is crucial these days, and we owe it to our veterans to ensure they can more easily obtain one."

Governor Corzine signed two additional pieces of legislation that honor the memory of brave military members, renaming two local bridge spans in the State. A-3788/ S-2691 designates the bridge carrying State Highway Route No. 109 over Cape May Canal as "Cape May County Veterans Memorial Bridge" to honor past and present residents of Cape May County who have bravely served their country.

"New Jersey's citizens are indebted to the sacrifice and heroism of the brave men and women who have served their country in the armed forces, many of whom call Cape May County home," said Assemblyman Matthew W. Milam (D-Atlantic/Cape May/Cumberland). "Dedicating this bridge in memory and honor of the men and women of Cape May County who have served will be a constant reminder for all of the sacrifices made by veterans on behalf of their

country and state."

"Veterans from Cape May County have served in many different capacities and are represented by local chapters and posts of every major veteran's organization," said Assemblymen Nelson T. Albano (D-Atlantic/Cape May/Cumberland). "It's only proper that we memorialize and honor the thousands of county residents who have served in the United States Armed Forces by renaming this bridge."

Another bill, A-2484/S-1019, designates the bridge carrying State Highway Route No. 9 over Throckmorton Street in Freehold Township as "Corporal Philip A. Reynolds Memorial Bridge," to honor the native Freehold Borough resident who was killed in action and posthumously awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

"Marine Corporal Philip A. Reynolds was a true American hero who gave his life for his country," said Senator Jeff Van Drew, (D-Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic). "He showed true selflessness and bravery while being outnumbered and outgunned. We must honor the memory of those who have lost their lives for our freedom and protection, and this dedication is the least we can do."

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