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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

RH/CL

P.L. 2017, CHAPTER 375, *approved January 16, 2018*
Assembly, No. 4171

1 **AN ACT** establishing the New Jersey Commission on Veterans'
2 Benefits in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and
3 supplementing chapter 3 of Title 38A of the New Jersey Statutes.
4

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

8 1. a. There is hereby established in the New Jersey Department
9 of Military and Veterans' Affairs the New Jersey Commission on
10 Veterans' Benefits consisting of 13 members as follows:

11 (1) the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and
12 Veterans' Affairs, or his or her designee, who shall serve as
13 chairperson;

14 (2) the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, or a
15 designee;

16 (3) the Commissioner of the Department of Health, or a
17 designee;

18 (4) the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs,
19 or a designee;

20 (5) the Commissioner of the Department of Education, or a
21 designee;

22 (6) the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce
23 Development, or a designee;

24 (7) the Secretary of State, or a designee;

25 (8) the Attorney General, or a designee; and

26 (9) five public members who are residents of this State and who
27 are veterans, as defined under section 2 of P.L.1987, c.444
28 (C.38A:3-1.2), one to be appointed by the Governor, and four to be
29 appointed one each by the President of the Senate, the Senate
30 Minority Leader, the Speaker of the General Assembly, and the
31 Assembly Minority Leader. At least two of the five public members
32 shall be women veterans.

33 The public members of the commission shall serve for terms of
34 three years and until the appointment and qualification of their
35 successors, except that of the initial appointment of public
36 members, three shall be appointed for a term of three years, and two
37 shall be appointed for a term of two years. Any vacancy in the
38 membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner
39 as the original appointments are made.

40 b. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable after
41 the appointment of a majority of its members and shall select from
42 among its members a vice chairperson. The members shall select a

1 secretary, who need not be a member of the commission.
2 Thereafter, the commission shall meet quarterly and at the call of
3 the chairperson. A meeting of the commission may also be called
4 upon at the request of seven of the commission members, and seven
5 members of the commission shall constitute a quorum at any
6 meeting thereof. The commission may conduct public hearings at
7 such places and at such times as it shall designate, at which it may
8 solicit the testimony of interested persons, groups and the general
9 public.

10 c. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
11 avail itself of the services of employees of any State, county or
12 municipal department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it
13 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes. The
14 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall provide such
15 organizational and personnel support as the commission may
16 request. All departments and agencies of the State shall furnish such
17 advice and information, documentation, and assistance to the
18 commission as is deemed necessary or desirable by the commission
19 to facilitate its purposes.

20 d. The members of the commission shall serve without
21 compensation, but the public members may be reimbursed for
22 necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of
23 their duties within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise
24 made available to it for its purposes.

25

26 2. a. It shall be the duty of the New Jersey Commission on
27 Veterans' Benefits to develop, maintain and annually update a five-
28 year Statewide veterans' benefits strategic plan that includes goals
29 and measurable outcomes to ensure that all State departments and
30 agencies are effectively delivering comprehensive services and
31 support for veterans and their families in this State.

32 b. In developing and updating the strategic plan, the commission
33 shall conduct an analysis to identify the various programs and
34 benefits provided by the State to the veteran population, and to
35 evaluate those programs to assess their status and effectiveness.
36 Areas of analysis shall include, but need not be limited to, each
37 existing program's status, successes, and challenges in addressing
38 the veteran population's: (1) access to benefits; (2) educational, job
39 skills, employment, and business opportunities; (3) physical and
40 behavioral health and long-term healthcare options; (4) criminal
41 justice issues; (5) housing opportunities and homelessness; and (6)
42 special needs as determined by the commission. The strategic plan
43 shall be based upon comprehensive data gained through open and
44 transparent engagement with State departments and agencies and
45 veterans' stakeholders.

46 c. The commission shall develop recommendations to be
47 submitted to the Governor and the Legislature to address any
48 deficiencies in the provision of benefits and services to veterans in

1 this State. The recommendations shall specifically address whether
2 the existing State programs, services, and resources are adequate to
3 meet the veteran population's existing needs; are being used to
4 fulfill objectives in a manner that complements and leverages State,
5 federal, and private resources; and how they may more effectively
6 deliver veterans' services to all current and future veterans in the
7 State of New Jersey.

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9 3. The commission shall prepare and submit an initial five-year
10 strategic plan to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to
11 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), within six months of
12 the organization of the commission. Thereafter, the commission
13 shall prepare and submit annual reports to the Governor and the
14 Legislature containing its findings, activities and recommendations,
15 including any recommendations for administrative and legislative
16 action that it deems appropriate.

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18 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
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21 STATEMENT

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23 This bill establishes the New Jersey Commission on Veterans'
24 Benefits in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
25 (DMAVA). The purpose of the commission is to develop, maintain,
26 and annually update a five-year statewide veterans' benefits
27 strategic plan that includes goals and measurable outcomes to
28 ensure that all State departments and agencies are effectively
29 delivering comprehensive services and support for veterans and
30 their families in this State.

31 Under the bill, the commission is composed of 13 members.
32 Eight members would be the Adjutant General of DMAVA, who
33 would serve as chairperson; the Commissioner of the Department of
34 Human Services; the Commissioner of the Department of Health;
35 the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs; the
36 Commissioner of the Department of Education; the Commissioner
37 of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development; the
38 Secretary of State; and the Attorney General, or their respective
39 designees. Five would be public members who are residents of this
40 State and who are veterans, one each to be appointed by the
41 Governor and the legislative leadership for three-year terms. At
42 least two of the five public members are required to be women
43 veterans.

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Establishing New Jersey Commission on Veterans' Benefits in
DMVA.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4171

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Mosquera, Assemblyman McKeon, Assemblywoman Pinkin, Assemblymen Space, Mazzeo, Assemblywoman McKnight, Senators A.R.Bucco and Madden

SYNOPSIS

Establishing New Jersey Commission on Veterans' Benefits in DMVA.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/9/2018)

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A4171 DOWNEY, HOUGHTALING

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ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4171

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 13, 2017

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly, No. 4171.

This bill establishes the New Jersey Commission on Veterans' Benefits in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMAVA). The purpose of the commission is to develop, maintain, and annually update a five-year statewide veterans' benefits strategic plan that includes goals and measurable outcomes to ensure that all State departments and agencies are effectively delivering comprehensive services and support for veterans and their families in this State.

Under the bill, the commission is composed of 13 members: the Adjutant General of DMAVA, who would serve as chairperson; the Commissioners of the Departments of Human Services, Health, Community Affairs, Education, and Labor and Workforce Development; the Secretary of State; the Attorney General; and five public members. The five public members would be residents of this State and veterans, one each to be appointed by the Governor and the legislative leadership. At least two of the five public members are required to be women veterans.

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commission would prepare and submit annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature containing its findings, activities and recommendations, including any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that it deems appropriate.

Assembly Bill No. 4171 is identical to Senate Bill No. 2584 of 2016-2017.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4171

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 20, 2017

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4171.

This bill establishes the New Jersey Commission on Veterans' Benefits in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMAVA). The purpose of the commission is to develop, maintain, and annually update a five-year statewide veterans' benefits strategic plan that includes goals and measurable outcomes to ensure that all State departments and agencies are effectively delivering comprehensive services and support for veterans and their families in this State.

The bill provides that the commission will be composed of 13 members: the Adjutant General of DMAVA, who would serve as chairperson; the Commissioners of the Departments of Human Services, Health, Community Affairs, Education, and Labor and Workforce Development; the Secretary of State; the Attorney General; and five public members. The five public members would be residents of this State and veterans, one each to be appointed by the Governor and the legislative leadership. At least two of the five public members are required to be women veterans.

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recommendations, including any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that it deems appropriate.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill was not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 4171

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2017

The Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4171.

This bill establishes the New Jersey Commission on Veterans' Benefits in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMAVA). The purpose of the commission is to develop, maintain, and annually update a five-year statewide veterans' benefits strategic plan that includes goals and measurable outcomes to ensure that all State departments and agencies are effectively delivering comprehensive services and support for veterans and their families in this State.

Under the bill, the commission is composed of 13 members. Eight members would be the Adjutant General of DMAVA, who would serve as chairperson; the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services; the Commissioner of the Department of Health; the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs; the Commissioner of the Department of Education; the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development; the Secretary of State; and the Attorney General, or their respective designees. Five would be public members who are residents of this State and who are veterans, one each to be appointed by the Governor and the legislative leadership for three-year terms. At least two of the five public members are required to be women veterans.

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SENATE, No. 2584

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators A.R.Bucco and Madden

SYNOPSIS

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44 existing program's status, successes, and challenges in addressing
45 the veteran population's access to benefits; educational, job skills,
46 employment, and business opportunities; physical and behavioral
47 health and long-term healthcare options; criminal justice issues;
48 housing opportunities and homelessness; and special needs as

1 determined by the commission. The bill also requires the
2 commission to develop recommendations to be submitted to the
3 Governor and the Legislature to address any deficiencies in the
4 provision of benefits and services to veterans in this State.

5 Finally, the commission is required by the bill to prepare and
6 submit an initial five-year strategic plan to the Governor and the
7 Legislature within six months of its organization. Thereafter, the
8 commission would prepare and submit annual reports to the
9 Governor and the Legislature containing its findings, activities and
10 recommendations, including any recommendations for
11 administrative and legislative action that it deems appropriate.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2584

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2017

The Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2584.

This bill establishes the New Jersey Commission on Veterans' Benefits in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMAVA). The purpose of the commission is to develop, maintain, and annually update a five-year statewide veterans' benefits strategic plan that includes goals and measurable outcomes to ensure that all State departments and agencies are effectively delivering comprehensive services and support for veterans and their families in this State.

Under the bill, the commission is composed of 13 members. Eight members would be the Adjutant General of DMAVA, who would serve as chairperson; the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services; the Commissioner of the Department of Health; the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs; the Commissioner of the Department of Education; the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development; the Secretary of State; and the Attorney General, or their respective designees. Five would be public members who are residents of this State and who are veterans, one each to be appointed by the Governor and the legislative leadership for three-year terms. At least two of the five public members are required to be women veterans.

The bill directs the commission to develop the five-year strategic plan by conducting an analysis to identify the various programs and benefits provided by the State to the veteran population, and to evaluate those programs to assess their status and effectiveness. Areas of analysis would include, but need not be limited to, each existing program's status, successes, and challenges in addressing the veteran population's access to benefits; educational, job skills, employment, and business opportunities; physical and behavioral health and long-term healthcare options; criminal justice issues; housing opportunities and homelessness; and special needs as determined by the commission. The bill also requires the commission to develop recommendations to be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature to address any deficiencies in the provision of benefits and services to veterans in this State.

Finally, the commission is required by the bill to prepare and submit an initial five-year strategic plan to the Governor and the Legislature within six months of its organization. Thereafter, the commission would prepare and submit annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature containing its findings, activities and recommendations, including any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that it deems appropriate.