

52:27D-516 to 52:27D-519 and Appropriation

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2017 **CHAPTER:** 258

NJSA: 52:27D-516 to 52:27D-519 and Appropriation ("New Jersey Housing Assistance for Veterans Act," establishes pilot program to assist certain veterans with housing modification and rehabilitation; appropriates \$5 million.)

BILL NO: A306 (Substituted for S2017)

SPONSOR(S) Singleton and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 1/27/2016

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Military & Veterans' Affairs
Appropriations

SENATE: Military & Veterans' Affairs

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 6/8/2017

SENATE: 12/18/2017

DATE OF APPROVAL: 1/8/2018

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Introduced version of bill enacted) Yes

A306

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 5 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes Military & Veterans' Affairs
Appropriations

SENATE: Yes Military & Veterans' Affairs

(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

S2017

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 5 of introduced bill) 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)

(continued)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

RH/CL

§§1-4 -
C.52:27D-516 to
52:27D-519
§5 - Approp.
§6 - Note

P.L.2017, CHAPTER 258, *approved January 8, 2018*
Assembly, No. 306

1 AN ACT concerning the modification and rehabilitation of housing
2 for certain veterans, supplementing chapter 27D of Title 52 of
3 the Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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 “New Jersey
9 Housing Assistance for Veterans Act.”

10

11 2. As used in this act:

12 “Director” means the Director of the Division of Housing and
13 Community Resources in the Department of Community Affairs.

14 “Disabled” means a person who fulfills the definition of having a
15 “disability” pursuant to section 3 of the “Americans with
16 Disabilities Act of 1990,” 42 U.S.C. s.12102.

17 “Division” means the Division of Housing and Community
18 Resources in the Department of Community Affairs.

19 “Eligible veteran” means a disabled or low-income veteran.

20 “Energy efficient features or equipment” means features or
21 equipment within a primary residence that help to reduce the
22 amount of electricity used to heat, cool, or ventilate the residence,
23 including but not limited to insulation, weatherstripping, air sealing,
24 repaired heating systems, or duct sealing.

25 “Family member” means a spouse, child, parent, sibling, aunt,
26 uncle, niece, nephew, first cousin, grandparent, grandchild, father-
27 in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepparent,
28 stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister, whether
29 the individual is related by blood, marriage, or adoption.

30 “Low-income veteran” means a veteran occupying a household
31 with a gross household income equal to 50 percent or less of the
32 median gross household income for households of the same size,
33 and within the same housing region, as defined by subsection b. of
34 section 4 of P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-304).

35 “Primary residence” means a dwelling unit that is owned by the
36 eligible veteran or by a family member of the eligible veteran, and
37 occupied by the eligible veteran as his or her principle residence.

38 “Qualified organization” means a nonprofit veterans'
39 organization that qualifies as a section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax
40 exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

1 “Veteran” means any resident of the State who has been
2 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
3 from active service in any branch of the armed forces of the United
4 States, or any honorably discharged member of the American
5 Merchant Marine who served during World War II and is declared
6 by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for
7 federal veterans' benefits.

8
9 3. The director shall establish a pilot program to award grants
10 to qualified organizations to rehabilitate and modify the primary
11 residences of eligible veterans, and shall manage the pilot program
12 in consultation with the Adjutant General of the Department of
13 Military and Veterans' Affairs to most effectively advance the
14 needs of eligible veterans. The director shall administer the pilot
15 program for five years following the operative date of P.L. ,
16 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). Grant
17 awards totaling \$1 million shall be awarded during each year the
18 pilot program is in operation.

19 a. In addition to any additional information required by the
20 director, a qualified organization seeking a grant under the pilot
21 program shall submit an application to the division that shall
22 include the following information:

23 (1) the approximate number of veterans the qualified
24 organization has the capacity to serve through grant funding; and

25 (2) a description of the type of work to be completed, such as
26 interior home modifications, energy efficiency improvements, and
27 other similar categories of work.

28 b. In order to receive a grant award under the pilot program, a
29 qualified organization shall:

30 (1) demonstrate expertise in providing housing rehabilitation
31 and modification services for the purpose of making homes
32 accessible, functional, and safe;

33 (2) have experience in successfully carrying out accountability
34 and reporting requirements involved in the proper administration of
35 grant funds; and

36 (3) commit to paying workers employed through the pilot
37 program no less than the prevailing wage rate for the worker's craft
38 or trade, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and
39 Workforce Development pursuant to P.L.1963, c.150 (C.34:11-
40 56.25 et seq.).

41 c. In awarding grants under the pilot program, the director shall
42 give preference to qualified organizations that employ workers from
43 an apprenticeable trade participating in the Helmets to Hardhats
44 Program, as certified by the New Jersey State Building and
45 Construction Trades Council, such that not less than five percent of
46 projected labor hours shall be completed by such participating
47 organizations.

- 1 d. Low income veterans who are also disabled shall receive
2 preference over other eligible veterans in selection for assistance
3 under the pilot program.
- 4 e. Grant awards under the pilot program shall be used to
5 modify and rehabilitate the primary residences of eligible veterans,
6 and for other purposes necessary to advance this goal, as permitted
7 by the director. Permitted uses of grant funding shall include, but
8 shall not be limited to:
- 9 (1) installing wheelchair ramps, widening exterior and interior
10 doors, reconfiguring and re-equipping bathrooms to enhance
11 accessibility, removing doorway thresholds, and installing
12 appropriate floor coverings to accommodate the functional
13 limitations that result from having a disability;
- 14 (2) rehabilitating homes that are in a state of interior or exterior
15 disrepair; and
- 16 (3) installing energy efficient features or equipment if the
17 eligible veteran's monthly residential utility costs are greater than
18 five percent of monthly household income, and an energy audit of
19 the residence indicates that the installation of energy efficient
20 features or equipment would reduce utility costs by 10 percent or
21 more.
- 22 f. No qualified organization shall be awarded more than
23 \$400,000 through the pilot program in any one fiscal year. A
24 qualified organization receiving a grant shall contribute a matching
25 contribution in an amount not less than 50 percent of the grant
26 award. This matching requirement may be met through cash
27 contributions, or in-kind contributions, as permitted by the director.
28 Eligible veterans benefitting from the pilot program shall not pay an
29 application fee or any other cost for the work completed on their
30 residence, unless a modest fee can be charged, as permitted by the
31 director, without forcing the veteran's total monthly housing costs
32 to exceed 30 percent of total household income.
- 33 g. (1) The director shall provide an annual report to the
34 Governor, and the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
35 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), presenting the following information with
36 respect to the associated year of the pilot program:
- 37 (a) the number of eligible veterans provided assistance under
38 the pilot program;
- 39 (b) the socioeconomic characteristics of the benefited veterans;
- 40 (c) the total number, types, and locations of qualified
41 organizations offered grant funding under the pilot program;
- 42 (d) the amount of matching funds, and form of in-kind
43 contributions raised with each grant;
- 44 (e) a description of the housing rehabilitation and modification
45 services provided, costs saved, and actions taken under the pilot
46 program;
- 47 (f) a description of the outreach initiatives implemented to
48 educate the general public and qualified organizations about the

1 pilot program, and to identify eligible veterans and their families;
2 and

3 (g) a description of compensation offered to workers employed
4 through the pilot program, and a certification that workers have not
5 been paid less than the prevailing wage rate for the worker's craft or
6 trade, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce
7 Development pursuant to P.L.1963, c.150 (C.34:11-56.25 et seq.).

8 (h) any other information that the director considers relevant in
9 assessing the pilot program.

10 (2) Not later than six months following completion of the pilot
11 program, the director shall provide another report to the Governor,
12 and the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
13 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), presenting information necessary to assess the
14 success of the pilot program as a whole.

15
16 4. The Director of the Division of Local Government Services
17 in the Department of Community Affairs shall promulgate rules and
18 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
19 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the provisions of
20 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), on
21 or before the first day of the fifth month next following enactment.

22
23 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$5
24 million to the Division of Local Government Services in the
25 Department of Community Affairs for the purposes of effectuating
26 the provisions of this act.

27
28 6. This act shall take effect immediately, but sections 1 through
29 3 shall remain inoperative until the first day of the fifth month next
30 following enactment.

31

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34

35 "New Jersey Housing Assistance for Veterans Act," establishes
36 pilot program to assist certain veterans with housing modification
37 and rehabilitation; appropriates \$5 million.

ASSEMBLY, No. 306

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

217th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman JAY WEBBER

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

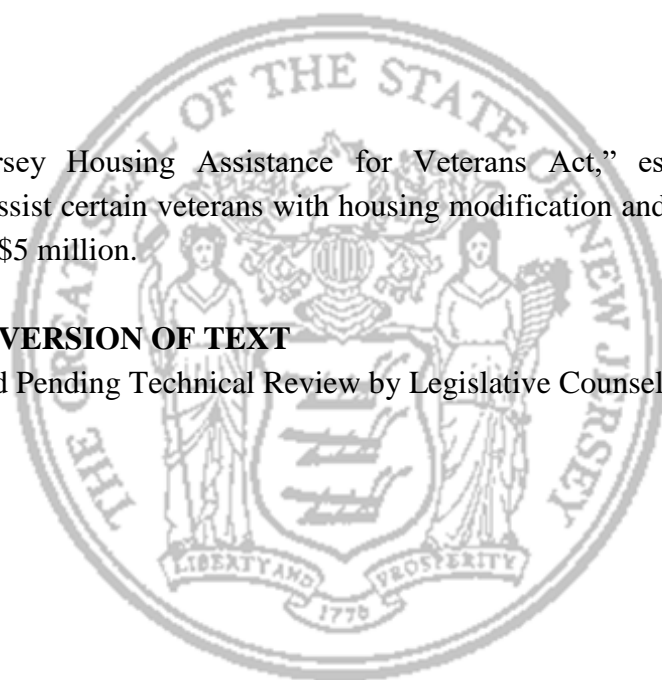
Assemblymen Andrzejczak, Mukherji, Assemblywoman Mosquera, Assemblyman DeAngelo, Assemblywomen B.DeCroce, Quijano, Assemblymen C.A.Brown, Rible, McKeon, Assemblywoman Muoio and Assemblyman Holley

SYNOPSIS

“New Jersey Housing Assistance for Veterans Act,” establishes pilot program to assist certain veterans with housing modification and rehabilitation; appropriates \$5 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/5/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning the modification and rehabilitation of housing
2 for certain veterans, supplementing chapter 27D of Title 52 of
3 the Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation.
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 “New Jersey
9 Housing Assistance for Veterans Act.”
10

11 2. As used in this act:

12 “Director” means the Director of the Division of Housing and
13 Community Resources in the Department of Community Affairs.

14 “Disabled” means a person who fulfills the definition of having a
15 “disability” pursuant to section 3 of the “Americans with
16 Disabilities Act of 1990,” 42 U.S.C. s.12102.

17 “Division” means the Division of Housing and Community
18 Resources in the Department of Community Affairs.

19 “Eligible veteran” means a disabled or low-income veteran.

20 “Energy efficient features or equipment” means features or
21 equipment within a primary residence that help to reduce the
22 amount of electricity used to heat, cool, or ventilate the residence,
23 including but not limited to insulation, weatherstripping, air sealing,
24 repaired heating systems, or duct sealing.

25 “Family member” means a spouse, child, parent, sibling, aunt,
26 uncle, niece, nephew, first cousin, grandparent, grandchild, father-
27 in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepparent,
28 stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister, whether
29 the individual is related by blood, marriage, or adoption.

30 “Low-income veteran” means a veteran occupying a household
31 with a gross household income equal to 50 percent or less of the
32 median gross household income for households of the same size,
33 and within the same housing region, as defined by subsection b. of
34 section 4 of P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-304).

35 “Primary residence” means a dwelling unit that is owned by the
36 eligible veteran or by a family member of the eligible veteran, and
37 occupied by the eligible veteran as his or her principle residence.

38 “Qualified organization” means a nonprofit veterans'
39 organization that qualifies as a section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax
40 exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

41 “Veteran” means any resident of the State who has been
42 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
43 from active service in any branch of the armed forces of the United
44 States, or any honorably discharged member of the American
45 Merchant Marine who served during World War II and is declared
46 by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for
47 federal veterans' benefits.

1 3. The director shall establish a pilot program to award grants
2 to qualified organizations to rehabilitate and modify the primary
3 residences of eligible veterans, and shall manage the pilot program
4 in consultation with the Adjutant General of the Department of
5 Military and Veterans' Affairs to most effectively advance the
6 needs of eligible veterans. The director shall administer the pilot
7 program for five years following the operative date of P.L. ,
8 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). Grant
9 awards totaling \$1 million shall be awarded during each year the
10 pilot program is in operation.

11 a. In addition to any additional information required by the
12 director, a qualified organization seeking a grant under the pilot
13 program shall submit an application to the division that shall
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16 organization has the capacity to serve through grant funding; and

17 (2) a description of the type of work to be completed, such as
18 interior home modifications, energy efficiency improvements, and
19 other similar categories of work.

20 b. In order to receive a grant award under the pilot program, a
21 qualified organization shall:

22 (1) demonstrate expertise in providing housing rehabilitation
23 and modification services for the purpose of making homes
24 accessible, functional, and safe;

25 (2) have experience in successfully carrying out accountability
26 and reporting requirements involved in the proper administration of
27 grant funds; and

28 (3) commit to paying workers employed through the pilot
29 program no less than the prevailing wage rate for the worker's craft
30 or trade, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and
31 Workforce Development pursuant to P.L.1963, c.150 (C.34:11-
32 56.25 et seq.).

33 c. In awarding grants under the pilot program, the director shall
34 give preference to qualified organizations that employ workers from
35 an apprenticeable trade participating in the Helmets to Hardhats
36 Program, as certified by the New Jersey State Building and
37 Construction Trades Council, such that not less than five percent of
38 projected labor hours shall be completed by such participating
39 organizations.

40 d. Low income veterans who are also disabled shall receive
41 preference over other eligible veterans in selection for assistance
42 under the pilot program.

43 e. Grant awards under the pilot program shall be used to
44 modify and rehabilitate the primary residences of eligible veterans,
45 and for other purposes necessary to advance this goal, as permitted
46 by the director. Permitted uses of grant funding shall include, but
47 shall not be limited to:

- 1 (1) installing wheelchair ramps, widening exterior and interior
2 doors, reconfiguring and re-equipping bathrooms to enhance
3 accessibility, removing doorway thresholds, and installing
4 appropriate floor coverings to accommodate the functional
5 limitations that result from having a disability;
- 6 (2) rehabilitating homes that are in a state of interior or exterior
7 disrepair; and
- 8 (3) installing energy efficient features or equipment if the
9 eligible veteran's monthly residential utility costs are greater than
10 five percent of monthly household income, and an energy audit of
11 the residence indicates that the installation of energy efficient
12 features or equipment would reduce utility costs by 10 percent or
13 more.
- 14 f. No qualified organization shall be awarded more than
15 \$400,000 through the pilot program in any one fiscal year. A
16 qualified organization receiving a grant shall contribute a matching
17 contribution in an amount not less than 50 percent of the grant
18 award. This matching requirement may be met through cash
19 contributions, or in-kind contributions, as permitted by the director.
20 Eligible veterans benefitting from the pilot program shall not pay an
21 application fee or any other cost for the work completed on their
22 residence, unless a modest fee can be charged, as permitted by the
23 director, without forcing the veteran's total monthly housing costs
24 to exceed 30 percent of total household income.
- 25 g. (1) The director shall provide an annual report to the
26 Governor, and the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
27 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), presenting the following information with
28 respect to the associated year of the pilot program:
- 29 (a) the number of eligible veterans provided assistance under
30 the pilot program;
- 31 (b) the socioeconomic characteristics of the benefited veterans;
- 32 (c) the total number, types, and locations of qualified
33 organizations offered grant funding under the pilot program;
- 34 (d) the amount of matching funds, and form of in-kind
35 contributions raised with each grant;
- 36 (e) a description of the housing rehabilitation and modification
37 services provided, costs saved, and actions taken under the pilot
38 program;
- 39 (f) a description of the outreach initiatives implemented to
40 educate the general public and qualified organizations about the
41 pilot program, and to identify eligible veterans and their families;
42 and
- 43 (g) a description of compensation offered to workers employed
44 through the pilot program, and a certification that workers have not
45 been paid less than the prevailing wage rate for the worker's craft or
46 trade, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce
47 Development pursuant to P.L.1963, c.150 (C.34:11-56.25 et seq.).

1 (h) any other information that the director considers relevant in
2 assessing the pilot program.

3 (2) Not later than six months following completion of the pilot
4 program, the director shall provide another report to the Governor,
5 and the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
6 (C.52:14-19.1), presenting information necessary to assess the
7 success of the pilot program as a whole.

8

9 4. The Director of the Division of Local Government Services
10 in the Department of Community Affairs shall promulgate rules and
11 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
12 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the provisions of
13 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), on
14 or before the first day of the fifth month next following enactment.

15

16 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$5
17 million to the Division of Local Government Services in the
18 Department of Community Affairs for the purposes of effectuating
19 the provisions of this act.

20

21 6. This act shall take effect immediately, but sections 1 through
22 3 shall remain inoperative until the first day of the fifth month next
23 following enactment.

24

25

26

STATEMENT

27

28 This bill creates the "New Jersey Housing Assistance for
29 Veterans Act" as a five-year pilot program to assist disabled and
30 low income veterans with housing modification and rehabilitation
31 needs, and appropriates \$5 million from the general fund.

32 This bill requires the Director of the Division of Housing and
33 Community Resources ("director") in the Department of
34 Community Affairs to manage the pilot program, in coordination
35 with the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and
36 Veterans' Affairs, to award grants to nonprofit organizations for the
37 modification and rehabilitation of certain veterans' housing. To be
38 eligible for the program, a veteran would have to either be disabled,
39 or have a household income of no greater than 50 percent of the
40 median regional household income. Veterans who are both low
41 income and disabled would receive preference over other eligible
42 veterans in selection for assistance. Work would only be permitted
43 on the veteran's primary residence.

44 The bill appropriates \$5 million from the general fund, of which
45 the director would distribute \$1 million during each of five years to
46 nonprofit organizations towards the modification and rehabilitation
47 of veterans' housing. No nonprofit would receive more than
48 \$400,000 through the pilot program in any one fiscal year.

1 Nonprofits receiving a grant would have to contribute a 50 percent
2 match through either cash or in-kind contributions. Veterans
3 benefiting from the pilot program would not be required to
4 contribute any payment for the work, unless a modest fee can be
5 charged, as permitted by the director, without forcing the veteran's
6 total monthly housing costs to exceed 30 percent of total household
7 income.

8 A nonprofit organization seeking a grant would be required to
9 submit an application to the director that would include an estimate
10 of the number of veterans that the organization has the capacity to
11 serve, and a description of the type of work that would be
12 completed. Grants would only be awarded to organizations that can
13 demonstrate certain expertise in home modification and
14 rehabilitation, and experience in successfully carrying out
15 accountability and reporting requirements involved in the proper
16 administration of grant funds, and that commit to paying workers
17 the prevailing wage rate pursuant to N.J.S.A.34:11-56.25 et seq. In
18 awarding grants, preference would be given to nonprofits that
19 employ workers from an apprenticeable trade participating in the
20 Helmets to Hardhats Program as certified by the New Jersey State
21 Building and Construction Trades Council, such that not less than
22 five percent of projected labor hours would be completed by such
23 nonprofits.

24 The director would be required to promulgate rules and
25 regulations on or before the first day of the fifth month next
26 following this bill's enactment. As the program is in progress, the
27 director would submit an annual report to the Governor and the
28 Legislature detailing the number of eligible veterans provided
29 assistance, their socioeconomic characteristics, what nonprofit
30 organizations have received grants, what matching contributions
31 they have provided, the types of projects completed, the outreach
32 initiatives undertaken to identify eligible veterans and qualified
33 nonprofits, and any other information the director considers
34 relevant in assessing the pilot program.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 306

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 4, 2016

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly, No. 306.

This bill creates the "New Jersey Housing Assistance for Veterans Act" as a five-year pilot program to assist disabled and low income veterans with housing modification and rehabilitation needs, and appropriates \$5 million from the general fund.

This bill requires the Director of the Division of Housing and Community Resources ("director") in the Department of Community Affairs to manage the pilot program, in coordination with the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, to award grants to nonprofit organizations for the modification and rehabilitation of certain veterans' housing. To be eligible for the program, a veteran would have to either be disabled, or have a household income of no greater than 50 percent of the median regional household income. Veterans who are both low income and disabled would receive preference over other eligible veterans in selection for assistance. Work would only be permitted on the veteran's primary residence.

The bill appropriates \$5 million from the general fund, of which the director would distribute \$1 million during each of five years to nonprofit organizations towards the modification and rehabilitation of veterans' housing. No nonprofit would receive more than \$400,000 through the pilot program in any one fiscal year. Nonprofits receiving a grant would have to contribute a 50 percent match through either cash or in-kind contributions. Veterans benefiting from the pilot program would not be required to contribute any payment for the work, unless a modest fee can be charged, as permitted by the director, without forcing the veteran's total monthly housing costs to exceed 30 percent of total household income.

A nonprofit organization seeking a grant would be required to submit an application to the director that would include an estimate of the number of veterans that the organization has the capacity to serve, and a description of the type of work that would be completed. Grants would only be awarded to organizations that can

demonstrate certain expertise in home modification and rehabilitation, and experience in successfully carrying out accountability and reporting requirements involved in the proper administration of grant funds, and that commit to paying workers the prevailing wage rate pursuant to N.J.S.A.34:11-56.25 et seq. In awarding grants, preference would be given to nonprofits that employ workers from an apprenticeable trade participating in the Helmets to Hardhats Program as certified by the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council, such that not less than five percent of projected labor hours would be completed by such nonprofits.

The director would be required to promulgate rules and regulations on or before the first day of the fifth month next following this bill's enactment. As the program is in progress, the director would submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature detailing the number of eligible veterans provided assistance, their socioeconomic characteristics, what nonprofit organizations have received grants, what matching contributions they have provided, the types of projects completed, the outreach initiatives undertaken to identify eligible veterans and qualified nonprofits, and any other information the director considers relevant in assessing the pilot program.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2016-2017 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 306

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 15, 2016

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 306.

This bill, the “New Jersey Housing Assistance for Veterans Act,” establishes a five-year pilot program to assist disabled and low income veterans with certain housing modification and rehabilitation needs, and appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund.

This bill requires the Director of the Division of Housing and Community Resources (“director”) in the Department of Community Affairs to manage the pilot program, in coordination with the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs, to award grants to nonprofit organizations for the modification and rehabilitation of certain veterans’ housing. To be eligible for the program, the bill requires that a veteran either be disabled, or have a household income of no greater than 50 percent of the median regional household income. The bill provides that veterans who are both low income and disabled are to receive preference over other eligible veterans in selection for assistance.

The bill requires the director to distribute \$1 million during each of the five years of the pilot program to nonprofit organizations for modification and rehabilitation of veterans’ housing. The bill provides that no nonprofit receive more than \$400,000 through the pilot program in any one fiscal year, and that nonprofits receiving a grant contribute a 50 percent match through either cash or in-kind contributions. Veterans benefiting from the pilot program will not be required to contribute any payment for the modification and rehabilitation work, which would only be permitted on a veteran’s primary residence, unless, as permitted by the director, a modest fee can be charged without forcing the veteran’s total monthly housing costs to exceed 30 percent of total household income.

The bill requires a nonprofit organization seeking a grant to submit an application, to include an estimate of the number of veterans that the organization has the capacity to serve and a description of the type of work that would be completed, to the director. The bill stipulates that grants only be awarded to organizations that demonstrate certain expertise in home modification and rehabilitation, and experience in successfully carrying out accountability and reporting requirements involved in the proper administration of grant funds, and that commit

to paying workers the prevailing wage rate pursuant to N.J.S.A.34:11-56.25 et seq. The bill requires that preference in awarding grants be given to nonprofits that employ workers from an apprenticeable trade participating in the Helmets to Hardhats Program as certified by the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council, such that not less than five percent of projected labor hours are to be completed by such nonprofits.

The bill requires the director to promulgate rules and regulations on or before the first day of the fifth month next following this bill's enactment. The bill further requires that during the pilot program, the director submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature detailing the number of eligible veterans provided assistance, their socioeconomic characteristics, the nonprofit organizations that have received grants and matching contributions that have been provided, the types of projects completed, the outreach initiatives undertaken to identify eligible veterans and qualified nonprofits, and any other information the director considers relevant in assessing the pilot program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified as requiring a fiscal note.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 306

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 30, 2017

The Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 306.

This bill creates the "New Jersey Housing Assistance for Veterans Act" as a five-year pilot program to assist disabled and low income veterans with housing modification and rehabilitation needs, and appropriates \$5 million from the general fund.

This bill requires the Director of the Division of Housing and Community Resources ("director") in the Department of Community Affairs to manage the pilot program, in coordination with the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, to award grants to nonprofit organizations for the modification and rehabilitation of certain veterans' housing. To be eligible for the program, a veteran would have to either be disabled, or have a household income of no greater than 50 percent of the median regional household income. Veterans who are both low income and disabled would receive preference over other eligible veterans in selection for assistance. Work would only be permitted on the veteran's primary residence.

The bill appropriates \$5 million from the general fund, of which the director would distribute \$1 million during each of five years to nonprofit organizations towards the modification and rehabilitation of veterans' housing. No nonprofit would receive more than \$400,000 through the pilot program in any one fiscal year. Nonprofits receiving a grant would have to contribute a 50 percent match through either cash or in-kind contributions. Veterans benefiting from the pilot program would not be required to contribute any payment for the work, unless a modest fee can be charged, as permitted by the director, without forcing the veteran's total monthly housing costs to exceed 30 percent of total household income.

A nonprofit organization seeking a grant would be required to submit an application to the director that would include an estimate of the number of veterans that the organization has the capacity to serve, and a description of the type of work that would be completed. Grants would only be awarded to organizations that can demonstrate certain expertise in home modification and rehabilitation, and experience in successfully carrying out accountability and reporting requirements

involved in the proper administration of grant funds, and that commit to paying workers the prevailing wage rate pursuant to N.J.S.A.34:11-56.25 et seq. In awarding grants, preference would be given to nonprofits that employ workers from an apprenticeable trade participating in the Helmets to Hardhats Program as certified by the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council, such that not less than five percent of projected labor hours would be completed by such nonprofits.

The director would be required to promulgate rules and regulations on or before the first day of the fifth month next following this bill's enactment. As the program is in progress, the director would submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature detailing the number of eligible veterans provided assistance, their socioeconomic characteristics, what nonprofit organizations have received grants, what matching contributions they have provided, the types of projects completed, the outreach initiatives undertaken to identify eligible veterans and qualified nonprofits, and any other information the director considers relevant in assessing the pilot program.

Assembly Bill No. 306 is identical to Senate Bill No. 2017 of the 2016-2017 session.

SENATE, No. 2017

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 18, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator DIANE B. ALLEN

District 7 (Burlington)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Cruz-Perez, Bateman, A.R.Bucco, Gordon and Madden

SYNOPSIS

“New Jersey Housing Assistance for Veterans Act,” establishes pilot program to assist certain veterans with housing modification and rehabilitation; appropriates \$5 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/19/2017)

S2017 ALLEN, BEACH

2

1 AN ACT concerning the modification and rehabilitation of housing
2 for certain veterans, supplementing chapter 27D of Title 52 of
3 the Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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 “New Jersey
9 Housing Assistance for Veterans Act.”

10

11 2. As used in this act:

12 “Director” means the Director of the Division of Housing and
13 Community Resources in the Department of Community Affairs.

14 “Disabled” means a person who fulfills the definition of having a
15 “disability” pursuant to section 3 of the “Americans with
16 Disabilities Act of 1990,” 42 U.S.C. s.12102.

17 “Division” means the Division of Housing and Community
18 Resources in the Department of Community Affairs.

19 “Eligible veteran” means a disabled or low-income veteran.

20 “Energy efficient features or equipment” means features or
21 equipment within a primary residence that help to reduce the
22 amount of electricity used to heat, cool, or ventilate the residence,
23 including but not limited to insulation, weatherstripping, air sealing,
24 repaired heating systems, or duct sealing.

25 “Family member” means a spouse, child, parent, sibling, aunt,
26 uncle, niece, nephew, first cousin, grandparent, grandchild, father-
27 in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepparent,
28 stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister, whether
29 the individual is related by blood, marriage, or adoption.

30 “Low-income veteran” means a veteran occupying a household
31 with a gross household income equal to 50 percent or less of the
32 median gross household income for households of the same size,
33 and within the same housing region, as defined by subsection b. of
34 section 4 of P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-304).

35 “Primary residence” means a dwelling unit that is owned by the
36 eligible veteran or by a family member of the eligible veteran, and
37 occupied by the eligible veteran as his or her principle residence.

38 “Qualified organization” means a nonprofit veterans'
39 organization that qualifies as a section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax
40 exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

41 “Veteran” means any resident of the State who has been
42 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
43 from active service in any branch of the armed forces of the United
44 States, or any honorably discharged member of the American
45 Merchant Marine who served during World War II and is declared
46 by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for
47 federal veterans' benefits.

1 3. The director shall establish a pilot program to award grants to
2 qualified organizations to rehabilitate and modify the primary
3 residences of eligible veterans, and shall manage the pilot program
4 in consultation with the Adjutant General of the Department of
5 Military and Veterans' Affairs to most effectively advance the
6 needs of eligible veterans. The director shall administer the pilot
7 program for five years following the operative date of P.L. ,
8 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). Grant
9 awards totaling \$1 million shall be awarded during each year the
10 pilot program is in operation.

11 a. In addition to any additional information required by the
12 director, a qualified organization seeking a grant under the pilot
13 program shall submit an application to the division that shall
14 include the following information:

15 (1) the approximate number of veterans the qualified
16 organization has the capacity to serve through grant funding; and

17 (2) a description of the type of work to be completed, such as
18 interior home modifications, energy efficiency improvements, and
19 other similar categories of work.

20 b. In order to receive a grant award under the pilot program, a
21 qualified organization shall:

22 (1) demonstrate expertise in providing housing rehabilitation and
23 modification services for the purpose of making homes accessible,
24 functional, and safe;

25 (2) have experience in successfully carrying out accountability
26 and reporting requirements involved in the proper administration of
27 grant funds; and

28 (3) commit to paying workers employed through the pilot
29 program no less than the prevailing wage rate for the worker's craft
30 or trade, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and
31 Workforce Development pursuant to P.L.1963, c.150 (C.34:11-
32 56.25 et seq.).

33 c. In awarding grants under the pilot program, the director shall
34 give preference to qualified organizations that employ workers from
35 an apprenticeable trade participating in the Helmets to Hardhats
36 Program, as certified by the New Jersey State Building and
37 Construction Trades Council, such that not less than five percent of
38 projected labor hours shall be completed by such participating
39 organizations.

40 d. Low income veterans who are also disabled shall receive
41 preference over other eligible veterans in selection for assistance
42 under the pilot program.

43 e. Grant awards under the pilot program shall be used to modify
44 and rehabilitate the primary residences of eligible veterans, and for
45 other purposes necessary to advance this goal, as permitted by the
46 director. Permitted uses of grant funding shall include, but shall not
47 be limited to:

S2017 ALLEN, BEACH

1 (1) installing wheelchair ramps, widening exterior and interior
2 doors, reconfiguring and re-equipping bathrooms to enhance
3 accessibility, removing doorway thresholds, and installing
4 appropriate floor coverings to accommodate the functional
5 limitations that result from having a disability;

6 (2) rehabilitating homes that are in a state of interior or exterior
7 disrepair; and

8 (3) installing energy efficient features or equipment if the
9 eligible veteran's monthly residential utility costs are greater than
10 five percent of monthly household income, and an energy audit of
11 the residence indicates that the installation of energy efficient
12 features or equipment would reduce utility costs by 10 percent or
13 more.

14 f. No qualified organization shall be awarded more than
15 \$400,000 through the pilot program in any one fiscal year. A
16 qualified organization receiving a grant shall contribute a matching
17 contribution in an amount not less than 50 percent of the grant
18 award. This matching requirement may be met through cash
19 contributions, or in-kind contributions, as permitted by the director.
20 Eligible veterans benefitting from the pilot program shall not pay an
21 application fee or any other cost for the work completed on their
22 residence, unless a modest fee can be charged, as permitted by the
23 director, without forcing the veteran's total monthly housing costs
24 to exceed 30 percent of total household income.

25 g. (1) The director shall provide an annual report to the
26 Governor, and the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
27 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), presenting the following information with
28 respect to the associated year of the pilot program:

29 (a) the number of eligible veterans provided assistance under the
30 pilot program;

31 (b) the socioeconomic characteristics of the benefited veterans;

32 (c) the total number, types, and locations of qualified
33 organizations offered grant funding under the pilot program;

34 (d) the amount of matching funds, and form of in-kind
35 contributions raised with each grant;

36 (e) a description of the housing rehabilitation and modification
37 services provided, costs saved, and actions taken under the pilot
38 program;

39 (f) a description of the outreach initiatives implemented to
40 educate the general public and qualified organizations about the
41 pilot program, and to identify eligible veterans and their families;
42 and

43 (g) a description of compensation offered to workers employed
44 through the pilot program, and a certification that workers have not
45 been paid less than the prevailing wage rate for the worker's craft or
46 trade, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce
47 Development pursuant to P.L.1963, c.150 (C.34:11-56.25 et seq.).

1 (h) any other information that the director considers relevant in
2 assessing the pilot program.

3 (2) Not later than six months following completion of the pilot
4 program, the director shall provide another report to the Governor,
5 and the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
6 (C.52:14-19.1), presenting information necessary to assess the
7 success of the pilot program as a whole.

8
9 4. The Director of the Division of Local Government Services in
10 the Department of Community Affairs shall promulgate rules and
11 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
12 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the provisions of
13 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), on
14 or before the first day of the fifth month next following enactment.

15
16 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$5
17 million to the Division of Local Government Services in the
18 Department of Community Affairs for the purposes of effectuating
19 the provisions of this act.

20
21 6. This act shall take effect immediately, but sections 1 through
22 3 shall remain inoperative until the first day of the fifth month next
23 following enactment.

24

25

26

STATEMENT

27

28 This bill creates the "New Jersey Housing Assistance for
29 Veterans Act" as a five-year pilot program to assist disabled and
30 low income veterans with housing modification and rehabilitation
31 needs, and appropriates \$5 million from the general fund.

32 This bill requires the Director of the Division of Housing and
33 Community Resources ("director") in the Department of
34 Community Affairs to manage the pilot program, in coordination
35 with the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and
36 Veterans' Affairs, to award grants to nonprofit organizations for the
37 modification and rehabilitation of certain veterans' housing. To be
38 eligible for the program, a veteran would have to either be disabled,
39 or have a household income of no greater than 50 percent of the
40 median regional household income. Veterans who are both low
41 income and disabled would receive preference over other eligible
42 veterans in selection for assistance. Work would only be permitted
43 on the veteran's primary residence.

44 The bill appropriates \$5 million from the general fund, of which
45 the director would distribute \$1 million during each of five years to
46 nonprofit organizations towards the modification and rehabilitation
47 of veterans' housing. No nonprofit would receive more than
48 \$400,000 through the pilot program in any one fiscal year.

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6

1 Nonprofits receiving a grant would have to contribute a 50 percent
2 match through either cash or in-kind contributions. Veterans
3 benefiting from the pilot program would not be required to
4 contribute any payment for the work, unless a modest fee can be
5 charged, as permitted by the director, without forcing the veteran's
6 total monthly housing costs to exceed 30 percent of total household
7 income.

8 A nonprofit organization seeking a grant would be required to
9 submit an application to the director that would include an estimate
10 of the number of veterans that the organization has the capacity to
11 serve, and a description of the type of work that would be
12 completed. Grants would only be awarded to organizations that can
13 demonstrate certain expertise in home modification and
14 rehabilitation, and experience in successfully carrying out
15 accountability and reporting requirements involved in the proper
16 administration of grant funds, and that commit to paying workers
17 the prevailing wage rate pursuant to N.J.S.A.34:11-56.25 et seq. In
18 awarding grants, preference would be given to nonprofits that
19 employ workers from an apprenticeable trade participating in the
20 Helmets to Hardhats Program as certified by the New Jersey State
21 Building and Construction Trades Council, such that not less than
22 five percent of projected labor hours would be completed by such
23 nonprofits.

24 The director would be required to promulgate rules and
25 regulations on or before the first day of the fifth month next
26 following this bill's enactment. As the program is in progress, the
27 director would submit an annual report to the Governor and the
28 Legislature detailing the number of eligible veterans provided
29 assistance, their socioeconomic characteristics, what nonprofit
30 organizations have received grants, what matching contributions
31 they have provided, the types of projects completed, the outreach
32 initiatives undertaken to identify eligible veterans and qualified
33 nonprofits, and any other information the director considers
34 relevant in assessing the pilot program.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 2017

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 30, 2017

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