

CHAPTER 123

AN ACT requiring the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to evaluate resources, costs and benefits of providing home health care aides for qualified veterans.

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

1. a. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, shall examine and evaluate the resources available and the costs and benefits of providing home health care services to elderly or disabled veterans through approved agencies, organizations or other entities for the purpose of enabling these veterans to remain in their homes and communities and to avoid placement in a nursing home or other long-term care facility.

b. The Adjutant General shall make specific recommendations to the Legislature regarding the allocation of State funds necessary to meet the demand for veterans' home health care services for each of the subsequent five State fiscal years. The examination and evaluation of the Adjutant General shall focus on accessibility and cost effectiveness of care to be provided, while ensuring that the integrity of the department's nursing home and related missions are maintained. The Adjutant General shall make specific recommendations for working with the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and private insurance companies to provide these alternative to veterans.

c. In the report prepared, the Adjutant General shall describe items and services that may be provided as needed by a licensed home health care agency to provide preventive, rehabilitative, and therapeutic services to patients in the patient's home or place of residence. The department shall itemize and estimate the cost to provide each service and shall estimate the number of veterans in need of home health care services for each of the subsequent five State fiscal years.

d. Each State department or agency shall provide the Adjutant General with such resources as may be necessary for the completion of the examination and evaluation required by this section.

e. Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall submit a written report to the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the findings and recommendations of the Adjutant General.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire 30 days after the submission of the final report to the Legislature.

Approved August 3, 2007.