

CHAPTER 8

AN ACT permitting the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to raise money to purchase a handicap accessible vehicle.

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

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs provides outreach services to the veterans of this State. These outreach services have proven to be beneficial; however, there is a large population of veterans, particularly the handicapped and disabled, who are not receiving these outreach services because of limitations such as remote living areas with lack of public transportation or handicap or wheelchair accessibility concerns.

b. This limited access to outreach services denies handicapped and disabled veterans access to information and activities such as health screenings. Handicapped and disabled veterans should have the same access to outreach services as other veterans. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs should utilize a veteran service vehicle to travel to various locations to provide outreach services to veterans.

c. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs lacks the adequate funding needed to be able to purchase a handicap accessible veteran service vehicle that would allow handicapped and disabled veterans to be able to board the vehicle and partake in the outreach services, thus providing assistance to the veterans in need.

d. It is necessary to permit the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to fundraise to obtain the necessary monies to purchase a handicap accessible veteran service vehicle for outreach services throughout the State of New Jersey to assist handicapped and disabled veterans.

2. a. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, or a designee, shall create a non-lapsing fund dedicated to the purchase and maintenance of a handicap accessible veteran service vehicle to be used to improve handicapped and disabled veteran outreach accessibility. The Adjutant General may solicit and accept donations or grants of money or property from any source, to be credited to the fund.

b. The fund shall be credited with any money received by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs through fundraising efforts and donations or grants of money, including any monies as may thereafter be donated by members of the public, for a handicap accessible vehicle. All monies obtained shall be dedicated towards the purchase of a handicap accessible veteran service vehicle and its maintenance. Any interest on monies in the fund shall be credited to the fund. Investment of such monies shall be consistent with policies of the Division of Investment.

c. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and the Deputy Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs shall distribute the monies received through fundraising efforts.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved May 5, 2010.