

CHAPTER 36

AN ACT establishing a pilot program in the New Jersey Turnpike Authority to aid military personnel in finding employment in the construction industry and supplementing P.L.1948, c.454 (C.27:23-1 et seq.).

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

C.27:23-51 Definitions relative to the Helmets to Hardhats pilot program.

1. As used in this act:

“Apprenticeable trade” means a trade or occupation eligible to participate in an apprenticeship program.

“Apprenticeship program” shall have the meaning ascribed to that term in section 3 of P.L.1993, c.268 (C.34:15E-3).

“Authority” means the New Jersey Turnpike Authority established by section 3 of P.L.1948, c.454 (C.27:23-3) or its successor.

“Custom fabrication” shall have the meaning ascribed to that term in section 2 of P.L.1963, c.150 (C.34:11-56.26).

“Helmets to Hardhats Program” means the program administered by the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council that connects National Guard, Reserve, and transitioning active-duty military personnel with jobs in the construction industry.

“Highway project” shall have the meaning ascribed to that term in section 4 of P.L.1948, c.454 (C.27:23-4).

“Labor hours” means work performed by a skilled or semi-skilled laborer, mechanic, apprentice, or helper employed by any contractor or subcontractor and engaged in the construction, reconstruction, demolition, alteration, custom fabrication, repair work, or maintenance work, including painting and decorating, done under contract and paid for in whole, or in part, out of the funds of a public body, except work performed under a rehabilitation program.

“Public body” shall have the meaning ascribed to that term in section 2 of P.L.1963, c.150 (C.34:11-56.26).

“Work performed under a rehabilitation program” shall have the meaning ascribed to that term in section 2 of P.L.1963, c.150 (C.34:11-56.26).

“Worker” shall have the meaning ascribed to that term in section 2 of P.L.1963, c.150 (C.34:11-56.26).

C.27:23-52 Helmets to Hardhats pilot program.

2. a. The authority shall establish a pilot program to aid former military personnel in finding employment in the construction industry. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 18 of P.L.1968, c.461 (C.27:23-6.1) or any other law to the contrary, pursuant to the pilot program the authority shall require that for each highway project constructed by the authority, contracts shall be awarded such that not less than five percent or more than 20 percent of the projected labor hours per project are awarded to contractors who 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. The authority shall provide that workers shall be paid not less than the prevailing wage rate for the worker's craft or trade, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development pursuant to P.L.1963, c.150 (C.34:11-56.25 et seq.).

b. The authority shall develop goals to increase employment opportunities for all veterans during the pilot program period, including, but not limited to, goals for labor hours both in the administrative and construction areas related to highway projects.

C.27:23-53 Conduct of pilot program.

3. The authority shall conduct the pilot program established pursuant to section 2 of this act for a period of 18 months from the effective date of this act.

C.27:23-54 Evaluation of pilot program, report to Governor, Legislature.

4. The authority shall evaluate the pilot program established pursuant to section 2 of this act to determine what impact, if any, the program had in connecting former military personnel with jobs in the construction industry and on the cost of highway projects constructed by the authority. The authority shall review its efforts to comply with the goals established pursuant to subsection b. of section 2 of this act and the impact of those goals on employment opportunities for veterans. The authority shall report the findings of that evaluation to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, within 24 months after the effective date of this act.

5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month next following enactment, but the authority may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

Approved March 27, 2013.