

CHAPTER 239

AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program and allowing voluntary contributions on gross income tax returns to support homeless veterans, amending Title 38A and supplementing Title 54A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

C.38A:3-6.2a Short title.

1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program Act.”

2. N.J.S.38A:3-6 is amended to read as follows:

Powers, duties.

38A:3-6. Under the direction of the Governor, the Adjutant General shall:

(a) Exercise control over the affairs of the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs and in connection therewith make and issue such regulations governing the work of the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs and the conduct of its employees as may, in his judgment, be necessary or desirable.

(b) Be the request officer of the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs within the meaning of such term as defined in section 1 of P.L.1944, c.112 (C.52:27B-1).

(c) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1988, c.138.)

(d) Command the organized militia of the State, with responsibility for recruiting, mobilization, administration, training, discipline, equipping, supply and general efficiency thereof. He may issue such regulations and delegate such command functions as he shall deem necessary. The regulations so issued shall, insofar as possible, conform to the federal laws and regulations concerning the same.

(e) Maintain the archives and be the custodian of the records and papers required, by laws or regulations, to be filed with the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs.

(f) Supervise, administer and coordinate those activities of the selective service system for which the Governor is responsible.

(g) Acquire by gift, grant, purchase, exchange, eminent domain, or in any other lawful manner, in the name of and for the use of the State of New Jersey, all those parcels of land as shall be necessary for armories and other militia facilities, and supervise the design, construction, alteration, maintenance and repair of said property.

(h) Establish and maintain such headquarters as may be required for the militia.

(i) Exercise the powers vested in him and perform such other duties and functions as required of him by the Governor and by federal and State laws and regulations.

(j) Exercise all of the functions, powers and duties heretofore vested in the Director of the Division on Veterans’ Programs and Special Services.

(k) Appoint and remove officers and other personnel employed within the department, subject to the provisions of N.J.S.38A:3-8 and Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes and other applicable statutes, except as herein otherwise specifically provided.

(l) Have authority to organize and maintain an administrative division and to assign to employment therein secretarial, clerical and other assistants in the department or the Adjutant General’s Office for the purpose of providing centralized support to all segments of the department, including budgeting, personnel administration and oversight of equal opportunity programs.

(m) Perform, exercise and discharge the functions, powers and duties of the department through such divisions as may be established by this act or otherwise by law.

(n) Organize the work of the department in divisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this act and in bureaus and other organizational units as the Adjutant General may determine to be necessary for efficient and effective operation.

(o) Adopt, issue and promulgate, in the name of the department, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be authorized by law.

(p) Institute, or cause to be instituted, legal proceedings or processes as necessary to properly enforce and give effect to any of the Adjutant General's powers or duties.

(q) Make an annual report to the Governor and to the Legislature of the department's operations, and render other reports as the Governor shall from time to time request or as may be required by law.

(r) Coordinate the activities of the department, and the several divisions and other agencies therein, in a manner designed to eliminate overlapping and duplicative functions.

(s) Integrate within the department, so far as practicable, all staff services of the department and of several divisions and other agencies therein.

(t) Request access to all relevant files and records of other State agencies, which may be made available to the Adjutant General by the head of a State agency, and request, subject to the permission of the head of the State agency, any officer or employee therein to provide information as necessary to assist in the performance of the functions of the department.

(u) Supervise and operate the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Menlo Park, the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Vineland, the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Paramus and the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Cemetery-Arneytown.

(v) Supervise and operate the liaison office and the field offices which serve the federal Veterans' Affairs Medical Centers.

(w) Make application for federal grants and programs, other than education grants or funds.

(x) Administer the federally-funded training and rehabilitation programs, except for the administration of federally-funded education and training programs set forth in 38 U.S.C. s.36 et seq.

(y) Provide current information to the general public on State and federal veterans' programs and benefits.

(z) Develop and administer the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2013, c.239 (C.38A:3-6.2b).

C.38A:3-6.2b "New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program."

3. There is established in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs the "New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program." The purpose of this program shall be to award grants to organizations that assist homeless veterans in this State from funds appropriated to the department from the "Homeless Veterans Grant Fund" established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2013, c.239 (C.54A:9-25.33). The grants shall be allocated on a competitive basis. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall develop criteria for the granting of awards. An organization that wishes to apply for a grant under this program shall submit an application to the Adjutant General. The application shall, at the minimum, include a description of how the organization will assist homeless veterans. The Adjutant General may adopt, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act,"

P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the grant program.

C.54A:9-25.33 “Homeless Veterans Grant Fund.”

4. a. There is established in the Department of the Treasury a special fund to be known as the “Homeless Veterans Grant Fund.”

b. Each taxpayer shall have the opportunity to indicate on the taxpayer’s New Jersey gross income tax return that a portion of the taxpayer’s tax refund or an enclosed contribution shall be deposited in such fund in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1999, c.21 (C.54A:9-25.14).

c. Any costs incurred by the Division of Taxation for collection or administration attributable to this section may be deducted from receipts collected pursuant to this section, as determined by the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury. The State Treasurer shall deposit net contributions collected pursuant to this section into the “Homeless Veterans Grant Fund.”

d. The Legislature shall annually appropriate all funds deposited in the “Homeless Veterans Grant Fund” to the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs to be used exclusively for the awarding of grants to organizations that assist homeless veterans in this State under the New Jersey Homeless Veterans Grant Program established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2013, c.239 (C.38A:3-6.2b). The Legislature may deposit funds not collected pursuant to this section into the “Homeless Veterans Grant Fund,” as it may, from time to time, deem appropriate.

5. This act shall take effect immediately and section 4 of this act shall apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1 next following the date of enactment.

Approved January 17, 2014.