

CHAPTER 19

AN ACT concerning affordable housing occupancy preferences for veterans and related individuals, supplementing P.L.1979, c.275 (C.40:37A-106 et seq.) and P.L.1992, c.79 (C.40A:12A-1 et al.).

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

C.40:37A-114.1 Definitions relative to affordable housing occupancy preferences.

1. a. As used in this section:

“Disabled veteran” means any resident of the State who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been or shall be declared by the United States Veterans Administration, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability.

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

b. In addition to any other federal or State law regarding providing a veteran's affordable housing preference, the Commissioner of Community Affairs shall establish rules and regulations to provide a preference for affordable housing in a housing project, as defined under subsection f. of section 2 of P.L.1979, c.275 (C.40:37A-107), to homeless veterans, disabled veterans, and family members who are the primary residential caregivers to disabled veterans residing with them. All applicants for the housing preference as specified herein shall also be required to meet the income requirements for admission to the housing project.

c. Among applicants eligible to receive a housing project preference provided under subsection b. of this section, priority for the preference shall be given to applicants as follows: (1) homeless veterans shall receive first priority; (2) disabled veterans shall receive second priority; and (3) family members who are the primary residential caregivers to disabled veterans residing with them shall receive third priority.

C.40A:12A-20.2 Definitions relative to affordable housing occupancy preferences.

2. a. As used in this section:

“Disabled veteran” means any resident of the State who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been or shall be declared by the United States Veterans Administration, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability.

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

b. In addition to any other federal or State law regarding providing a veteran's affordable housing preference, the Commissioner of Community Affairs shall establish rules and regulations to provide a preference for affordable housing in a housing project to homeless veterans, disabled veterans, and family members who are the primary residential caregivers to disabled veterans residing with them. All applicants for the housing preference

as specified herein shall also be required to meet the income requirements for admission to the housing project.

c. Among applicants eligible to receive a housing project preference provided under subsection b. of this section, priority for the preference shall be given to applicants as follows: (1) homeless veterans shall receive first priority; (2) disabled veterans shall receive second priority; and (3) family members who are the primary residential caregivers to disabled veterans residing with them shall receive third priority.

3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month next following enactment.

Approved February 10, 2017.