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Note to
C.52:18A-218.4
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Note

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 73, *approved July 29, 2022*
Senate, No. 144 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing the “COVID-19 Frontline ¹and¹ Healthcare
2 Worker Memorial Commission.”

3

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

6

7 ²[1. The Legislature finds and declares that the coronavirus
8 disease 2019 pandemic has exacted a terrible toll on the global
9 community, the country, and this State. This global pandemic has
10 claimed **[over a million]** millions of lives worldwide, including
11 **[many]** the lives of frontline ¹and¹ healthcare workers **[that]** who
12 have displayed tremendous courage and dedication in their efforts
13 to treat ¹and support¹ patients affected by the coronavirus disease
14 2019. Many of these ¹frontline and¹ healthcare workers, **[from all**
15 **different healthcare fields]** including those **[working in]** providing
16 healthcare services in police and fire departments, rose **[above]**
17 beyond their usual scope of duties to combat multiple surges in the
18 **[surging]** number of cases of coronavirus disease 2019, often with
19 limited healthcare resources. As one of the early epicenters of the
20 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, it is important for this State to
21 memorialize the tragic consequences of the pandemic and recognize
22 the immense loss of life suffered by this State.

23 The Legislature therefore determines that it is fitting and proper
24 **[and fitting]** to establish a commission, to be known as the
25 COVID-19 Frontline ¹and¹ Healthcare Worker Memorial
26 Commission, to design and oversee the construction of a memorial
27 dedicated to the frontline ¹and¹ healthcare workers **[that]** who have
28 lost their lives treating ¹and supporting¹ patients during the
29 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.]²

30

31 ²[2. a. There is established **[.]** in, but not of, the Department of
32 State, a commission known as the “COVID-19 Frontline ¹and¹
33 Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission **[.]**.” **[for the purposes**
34 **of honoring and recognizing]** The purpose of the commission shall

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted February 14, 2022.

²Assembly ASL committee amendments adopted March 17, 2022.

1 be to design and oversee the construction of a memorial that honors
2 and recognizes the frontline ¹and¹ healthcare workers **【that】** who
3 lost their lives in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019
4 pandemic.

5 b. The commission shall consist of nine public members, who
6 shall be residents of the State and representative of frontline ¹and¹
7 healthcare workers, including frontline ¹and¹ healthcare workers in
8 police and fire departments. The Speaker of the General Assembly,
9 the Senate President, and the Governor shall each appoint three
10 public members **【of】** to the commission.

11 c. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be
12 filled in the same manner as is provided for the original
13 appointments **【are made】** .

14 d. The members of the commission shall serve without
15 compensation.

16 e. The commission shall organize as soon as **【may be】**
17 practicable after the appointment of a majority of its members and
18 shall elect from among its members a chairperson. The presence of
19 five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

20 f. The commission **【will】** shall meet ¹**【regularly】** at least twice
21 per year¹ **【as the commission determines, or】** at times and places
22 determined by the commission, as well as at the call of the
23 chairperson or a majority of commission's membership.

24 g. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public.
25 Agendas, minutes, documents, and testimony from all meetings
26 shall be posted on the Department of State's Internet website.

27 h. The commission **【also】** may request the assistance and
28 services of the employees of any State, county or municipal
29 department, board, bureau, commission, task force or agency as it
30 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes. The
31 Department of State shall provide staffing and administrative
32 support to the commission.²

33
34 ²**【3.** a. The commission shall select a suitable design and
35 location for the construction of a memorial dedicated to the
36 frontline ¹and¹ healthcare workers **【that】** who lost their lives in the
37 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, and shall determine appropriate
38 methods of financing the construction and maintenance of the
39 memorial. Following the selection of a design and specific location
40 for the memorial and the receipt of sufficient funding, the
41 commission shall oversee the construction of the memorial.

42 b. The commission may initiate fundraising measures and may
43 receive monetary donations for the design, construction, and
44 maintenance of the memorial. Any money received by the
45 commission for these purposes shall be deposited in the fund
46 established **【by】** pursuant to section 4 of this act.

1 c. ¹Not later than 30 days following the first meeting and each
2 meeting thereafter, the commission shall prepare and submit a
3 progress report on its activities to the Governor and, pursuant to
4 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature.

5 d.¹ Not later than 18 months following the effective date of this
6 act, the commission shall prepare and submit a final report to the
7 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
8 19.1), to the Legislature **【**, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
9 (C.52:14-19.1), a final report**】**, which report shall include the final
10 design selected for the memorial, the exact location selected for the
11 memorial, and the amount of funding necessary for construction and
12 maintenance of the memorial. **】**²

13
14 ²**【**4. There is established in the Department of the Treasury a
15 non-lapsing fund to be known as the “COVID-19 Frontline ¹and¹
16 Healthcare Worker Memorial Fund.” The fund shall be credited
17 with any moneys received by the COVID-19 Frontline ¹and¹
18 Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission as donations pursuant to
19 subsection b. of section 3 of this act and any moneys as may
20 thereafter be donated or appropriated to the fund. All **【interested】**
21 interest earned on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.
22 The moneys in the fund shall be administered by the State Treasurer
23 and held in the fund until appropriated by law. No later than one
24 year **【.** following the effective date of this act, and annually
25 thereafter, the State Treasurer shall certify to the Legislature and the
26 **【Commissioner of Environmental Protection】** Secretary of State the
27 total amount of moneys in the fund. **】**²

28
29 ²1. The Legislature finds and declares that the coronavirus
30 disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic has exacted a terrible toll on
31 the global community, the country, and this State. This global
32 pandemic has claimed millions of lives worldwide, including the
33 lives of frontline and healthcare workers who have displayed
34 tremendous courage and dedication in their efforts to treat and
35 support patients affected by COVID-19. Many of these frontline
36 and healthcare workers, including those providing healthcare
37 services in police and fire departments, went beyond their usual
38 scope of duties to combat multiple surges in the number of COVID-
39 19 cases, often with limited healthcare resources. As one of the
40 early epicenters of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important for this
41 State to memorialize the tragic consequences of the pandemic and
42 recognize the immense loss of life suffered by this State.

43 The Legislature therefore determines that it is fitting and proper
44 to establish a commission, to be known as the COVID-19 Frontline
45 and Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission, to design and
46 oversee the construction of a memorial dedicated to the frontline

1 and healthcare workers who have lost their lives treating and
2 supporting patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.²

3
4 ²2. a. There is established in, but not of, the Department of
5 State, a commission to be known as the “COVID-19 Frontline and
6 Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission.” The purpose of the
7 commission shall be to design and oversee the construction of a
8 memorial that honors and recognizes the frontline and healthcare
9 workers who lost their lives in the fight against the COVID-19
10 pandemic.

11 b. The commission shall consist of nine public members, who
12 shall be residents of the State and representative of frontline and
13 healthcare workers, including frontline and healthcare workers in
14 police and fire departments, individuals with knowledge in erecting
15 monuments or other general experience in construction or
16 architecture, individuals with experience in grant funding or in
17 business administration, and any other expertise as determined by
18 the Governor. The Governor shall appoint three public members to
19 the commission, shall appoint three members to the commission
20 upon recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly, and
21 shall appoint three members to the commission upon
22 recommendation of the President of the Senate.

23 c. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be
24 filled in the same manner as is provided for the original
25 appointments.

26 d. The members of the commission shall serve without
27 compensation.

28 e. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable after
29 the appointment of a majority of its members and shall elect from
30 among its members a chairperson. The presence of five members of
31 the commission shall constitute a quorum.

32 f. The commission shall meet at least twice per year at times
33 and places determined by the commission, as well as at the call of
34 the chairperson or a majority of commission’s membership.

35 g. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public.
36 Agendas, minutes, documents, and testimony from all meetings
37 shall be posted by the commission on the webpage established for
38 the commission, a link to which shall be posted on the Department
39 of State’s Internet website.

40 h. The commission may request the assistance and services of
41 the employees of any State, county or municipal department, board,
42 bureau, commission, task force or agency as it may require and as
43 may be available to it for its purposes. The commission may,
44 subject to available funds, hire staff as are necessary to effectuate
45 the purposes of this act, including to provide clerical and
46 administrative staff. The commission shall hire at least one
47 individual to provide clerical support to the commission.²

1 ²3. a. The commission shall select a suitable design and location
2 for the construction of a memorial dedicated to the frontline and
3 healthcare workers who lost their lives during the COVID-19
4 pandemic, and shall determine appropriate methods of financing the
5 construction and maintenance of the memorial. Following the
6 selection of a design and specific location for the memorial and the
7 receipt of sufficient funding, the commission shall oversee the
8 construction of the memorial.

9 b. The commission may initiate fundraising measures and may
10 receive monetary donations for the design, construction, and
11 maintenance of the memorial. Any money received by the
12 commission for these purposes shall be deposited in the fund
13 established pursuant to section 4 of this act.

14 c. Not later than 18 months following the effective date of this
15 act, the commission shall prepare and submit a final report to the
16 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
17 19.1), to the Legislature, which report shall include the final design
18 selected for the memorial, the exact location selected for the
19 memorial, and the amount of funding necessary for construction and
20 maintenance of the memorial.²

21
22 ²4. There is established in the Department of the Treasury a
23 non-lapsing fund to be known as the “COVID-19 Frontline and
24 Healthcare Worker Memorial Fund.” The fund shall be credited
25 with any moneys received by the COVID-19 Frontline and
26 Healthcare Worker Memorial Commission as donations pursuant to
27 subsection b. of section 3 of this act and any moneys as may
28 thereafter be donated or appropriated to the fund. All interest
29 earned on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund. The
30 moneys in the fund shall be administered by the State Treasurer and
31 held in the fund until appropriated by law. No later than one year
32 following the effective date of this act, and annually thereafter, the
33 State Treasurer shall certify to the Governor, the Legislature, and
34 the Secretary of State the total amount of moneys in the fund.²

35
36 5. The act shall take effect immediately, and sections 1 through
37 3 of this act shall expire on the first day of the sixth month next
38 following the completion of the [memorial, except for section 4,
39 which shall remain in effect] COVID-19 Frontline ¹and¹ Healthcare
40 Worker Memorial.

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44
45 Establishes “COVID-19 Frontline and Healthcare Worker
46 Memorial Commission.”