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THE COMMISSIONER**Division of Veterans Services Rules****Proposed New Rules: N.J.A.C. 5B:4**

Authorized By: Vincent Solomeno, Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Authority: 38 U.S.C. § 2402; and P.L. 2025, c. 139.

Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

Proposal Number: PRN 2026-060.

Submit written comments by December 18, 2026, to:

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The agency proposal follows:

Summary

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1, N.J.A.C. 5A:6, which was promulgated by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, expired on October 2, 2024. Effective January 9, 2026, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs was divided into the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs (Department), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 38A:21-1 et seq. As the Department has provided a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal, this notice is excepted from the rulemaking calendar requirements, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

The expired rules are proposed herein as new rules with changes related to the promulgation of the rules by the Department, including updating cross-references, agency names, addresses, and technical changes (to update standard Office of Administrative Law standards). Other changes are discussed in the description of each subchapter below.

The purpose of this chapter is to set forth the rules that outline, identify, and establish the eligibility requirements, policies, and procedures for the entitlement programs and services authorized for provision to the New Jersey resident veterans and their dependents by the State.

The chapter includes the following rules, along with a scope and purpose section of the chapter.

The Post Traumatic Stress Disorder/Readjustment (PTSD/R) Counseling Program is directed at providing assistance to New Jersey veterans suffering the effects of military or combat-related post traumatic stress. Treatment is extended to family members affected by the veterans' affliction. This entitlement is intended as a supplement to existing Federally provided programs and utilizes private clinicians on a contractual basis.

The Veterans' Tuition Credit Program (VTCP) provides an educational support entitlement to full-time and part-time students who are New Jersey resident veterans that served in the Armed Forces of the United States between December 31, 1960 and May 7, 1975.

The Vietnam Veterans Tuition Aid Program (VTAP) provides renewal applications to veterans, who reside in New Jersey and have a Vietnam Service Medal, that are pursuing an initial undergraduate degree with tuition assistance. This program is available to those Vietnam veterans who applied for assistance during the five-year period after the legislation was adopted. The application period for this program closed on April 9, 1990.

The Tuition Assistance of POW/MIAs Program provides free undergraduate college tuition for children of those veterans when accepted into an undergraduate course of study. The program is available to any dependent of a United States Armed Forces Prisoner of War or Person Missing in Action who is a resident of the State.

The Tuition Assistance for War Orphans Program provides for education assistance to children of New Jersey residents killed while on active duty or who have died or shall die due to service-connected disabilities, or officially listed as missing in action by the United States Department of Defense.

The Veterans' Catastrophic Entitlement Program provides for a State pension to resident veterans of the State that have been rated 100 percent wartime service-connected disabled meeting the specific criteria outlined in the program.

Social Impact

The proposed new rules will have a positive social impact upon the New Jersey veteran population and upon the families of veterans since they will clearly define how veterans and their dependents can access services and programs.

The PTSD/R Program is intended to assist veterans who are suffering from the effects of combat to readjust to society and become more effective members of the community. The rules governing the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder/Readjustment Counseling Program provide a gradual reduction over time in the rate of reimbursement for counseling sessions. This gradual reduction may result in individual clients paying out-of-pocket expenses for counseling sessions or accessing private insurance for reimbursement. The designed reduction negatively impacts the client the longer he or she is in the program. This allocates available funds and resources, thereby ensuring fair access to this program to new and existing clients.

Economic Impact

The proposed new rules will have no economic impact in general and will impose no obligations or costs to agencies outside of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The programs outlined in these rules will assist eligible veterans and their eligible dependents.

Indirectly, the PTSD/R Program has a positive impact since the program helps veterans to become more productive members of society, thereby placing fewer demands on the social systems of the State. The PTSD/R Program may have a negative impact on clients remaining in the program who are required to pay out-of-pocket or to use private insurance plans. The program has a positive impact on all clients as it enables them to be more productive economically in work and family life.

The cost of the tuition assistance programs will be balanced by the ability of the recipient to complete higher levels of education, thereby, obtaining a higher level of employment. Finally, the Veterans' Catastrophic Entitlement program will allow severely disabled veterans to live more effectively.

The General Treasury funds these programs as budget items. Except for minor adjustments, the amounts dedicated to these programs have remained constant and will continue to be so in the future.

Federal Standards Statement

The proposed new rules are not subject to any Federal requirement or standards. Therefore, a Federal standards analysis is not required.

Jobs Impact

The proposed new rules will not result in the creation or loss of jobs in the State.

Agriculture Industry Impact

The proposed new rules will have no impact upon the agriculture industry in the State.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The proposed new rules impose compliance requirements upon small business as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq.

The PTSD/R Program rules impose compliance requirements on providers and the tuition entitlement program places requirements on selected institutions of higher learning. Some of these providers and higher education institutions may be small businesses within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq.

PTSD-contracted clinicians must be in compliance with all State and local licenses and certifications applicable to the provision of services. Contract providers shall maintain adequate insurance coverage. The contract provider is subject to an audit at any time during the contract term or after contract termination. The contract provider must maintain accurate and complete records on all referrals for services. Confidentiality of records shall be maintained in accordance with Federal and State legislation and regulations, pursuant to the Department's Release

Statement/Information of the Contract Services Authorization (CSA) Form (DMAVA Form 50).

The Department does not anticipate that these requirements will cause any outside agency or service provided to incur capital costs or require professional services in order to comply. No lesser requirements are provided based upon business size since contracts for providers' services are made based upon proposals submitted by providers and payments are based upon the number of clients seen, and not upon business size, and participation in these programs by providers is voluntary.

The Department has provided no differing standards for small businesses because it believes the requirements to be minimal and not excessively burdensome. Moreover, uniform application of the requirements is necessary to ensure uniformity and consistency in the treatment of veterans and the maintenance of accurate records.

Housing Affordability Impact Analysis

The proposed new rules will have no impact on the affordability of housing in New Jersey and will not evoke a change in the average costs associated with housing because the rules set forth are limited to services for veterans and their families in certain circumstances.

Smart Growth Development Impact Analysis

The proposed new rules set forth rules pertaining to services for veterans and their families in certain circumstances. The proposed new rules will have an insignificant impact on smart growth and there is an extreme unlikelihood that the rules would evoke a change in housing production in Planning Areas 1 or 2, or within designated centers, pursuant to the State Development and Redevelopment Plan in New Jersey.

Racial and Ethnic Community Criminal Justice and Public Safety Impact

The Department has evaluated this rulemaking and determined that it will not have an impact on pretrial detention, sentencing, probation, or parole policies concerning adults and juveniles in the State. Accordingly, no further analysis is required.

Full text of the proposed new rules follows:

CHAPTER 4 DIVISION OF VETERANS SERVICES

SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

5B:4-1.1 Scope

(a) This chapter is applicable to all residents of the State who are veterans of the Armed Services of the United States of America and their families, when appropriate, as further identified in this chapter.

(b) This chapter does not refer to the policies and procedures involved in the admission to and operation of the Department's three veterans' memorial homes and two Veterans Havens, nor does it cover burial entitlements at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans' Memorial Cemetery.

5B:4-1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to outline, identify, and establish the eligibility requirements, policies, and procedures for the entitlement programs and services authorized for provision to New Jersey resident veterans by the State.

SUBCHAPTER 2. POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER/READJUSTMENT COUNSELING PROGRAM

5B:4-2.1 Scope

The New Jersey Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder/Readjustment (PTSD/R) Counseling Program has been established to provide assistance in the form of clinical counseling and continuity of care to veterans discharged other than dishonorably from the Armed Forces of the United States and their families. The New Jersey program is intended as a supplement to similar United States Department of Veterans Affairs or other government-sponsored programs or when such assistance is exhausted.

5B:4-2.2 Eligibility

Eligibility for the PTSD/R Program is limited to New Jersey resident veterans who have an other than dishonorable discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States and who suffer mental or emotional disorders as a result of combat-related experiences. Family members of such veterans whose problems date to the veteran's emotional/mental disorder are also eligible.

5B:4-2.3 Definitions

The following words and terms, as used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Client" means a veteran or family member with a veteran participating in the PTSD/R Program.

"Department" means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Family member" means the veteran's immediate family and includes significant others.

"PTSD/R" shall mean the New Jersey Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder/Readjustment Counseling Program.

"Resident" means a veteran living in New Jersey as verified by a current:

1. New Jersey driver's license;
2. New Jersey property tax bill or New Jersey resident income tax return;
3. Utility bill with the veteran's name and New Jersey address appearing thereon;
4. A New Jersey voter's registration card; or
5. A photo ID card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

"Significant other" means a person who is cohabiting with the veteran in the manner of a spouse as defined by current New Jersey statute.

"VSO" shall mean a State veteran service officer.

5B:4-2.4 Scope of service

(a) The PTSD/R Program consists of an initial evaluation period covering four visits after which the provider will recommend the level of additional services. Additional services will be based on a quarterly evaluation and determination will be made by the provider.

(b) Services will be provided for a period of two years. After two years, fees paid to contract clinicians by the Department for client counseling sessions will be reduced on an annual basis until at the end of six years the clinicians will be compensated at a rate of five percent of the standard cost per hourly session.

5B:4-2.5 Procedures

(a) Application for services will be made directly to a VSO of the Division of Veterans Services (DVS). The VSO shall conduct an interview and make an initial evaluation of eligibility.

(b) If the applicant meets the criteria established at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-2.2, a VSO shall contact the DVS program manager, to determine current status of the program.

(c) Referral to a provider shall be made on DVA Form 50, Contract Services Authorization (CSA) (see N.J.A.C. 5B:4 Appendix A, incorporated herein by reference), which is filled out by a VSO. A VSO shall give the form to the DVS program manager. A VSO shall give copies of the form to the provider and the individual. One copy shall be retained by a VSO for the individual's file.

(d) All individuals applying for services must be seen by a VSO. Providers shall not assume the responsibility of taking on clients within the auspices of this program without following the procedures outlined at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-2.6. Any clients accepted by a provider without proper referral shall be the responsibility of the provider.

(e) A veteran shall exhaust all avenues of counseling through the Federal system before making an application to the Department's program. However, the DVS program manager, upon recommendation of that VSO, may make exceptions when the DVS program manager feels that it is in the best interest of the veteran.

5B:4-2.6 Responsibilities

(a) The responsibilities of a VSO are as follows:

1. A VSO will be the PTSD/R contact person conducting initial screening interviews and giving authorization for services.

2. A VSO will coordinate with the clinician when the veteran is accepted into the PTSD/R Program. Department Form 50, Contract Services Authorization (N.J.A.C. 5B:4 Appendix A), shall be utilized to refer a client to a clinician by a VSO.

3. In the event that the veteran is placed on a waiting list, a VSO will maintain personal contact with the veteran, at a minimum, once every 30 days, advising him or her of his or her status on the waiting list.

(b) The responsibilities of the DVS are as follows:

1. To oversee the funding of the program and the services provided by the clinician to eligible veterans;

2. To contract only with licensed mental health professionals in the State of New Jersey and mental health agencies approved by the State of New Jersey pursuant to the certificate of need process and staffed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 30:9A-1 through 30:9A-11 and who have or are willing to gain experience with combat/military related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (providers); and

3. To make all efforts to seek out funding sources.

(c) The responsibilities of providers are as follows:

1. After the initial evaluation, the provider shall make recommendations as to the course of therapy for the client through a VSO to the DVS program manager.

3. At the completion of each counseling session, verification of the service provided shall be prepared by the clinician and presented to the client for signature.

4. Monthly expenditure reports will be submitted to the DVS by clinicians on the 10th of each month following the close of the reporting period.

5. A client who temporarily leaves the State program for at least 90 days shall be readmitted at the rate of reimbursement that was in effect when he or she left the program. The provider shall notify the Department DVS within 90 days of inactivity in order to receive time credit for the client from the date of his or her last treatment session. Within 30 days of the client's reinstatement into the PTSD/R Program, the provider shall send a letter explaining the reinstatement to the Department. From the date of admittance, reimbursement shall be as indicated below:

i. For individuals who have been enrolled in the program from 0 to 24 months (two years), the Department shall reimburse the provider for services at 100 percent of the negotiated contract rate for each session;

ii. For individuals enrolled in the program from 25 to 36 months (three years), the Department shall reimburse the provider 50 percent of the negotiated contract rate for each session;

iii. For individuals enrolled in the program from 37 to 48 months (four years), the Department shall reimburse the provider 30 percent of the negotiated contract rate for each session;

iv. For individuals enrolled in the program from 49 to 60 months (five years), the Department shall reimburse the provider 20 percent of the negotiated contract rate for each session;

v. For individuals enrolled in the program from 61 to 72 months (six years), the Department shall reimburse the provider 10 percent of the negotiated contract rate for each session;

vi. For individuals enrolled in the program from 73 to 84 months (seven years), the Department shall reimburse the provider five percent of the negotiated contract rate for each session; and

vii. The Department shall not reimburse counseling sessions for individuals in the program after 84 months (seven years cumulative).

(d) The responsibilities of veterans/veterans' family member(s) (client(s)) are as follows:

1. The client will make contact with the clinician within five business days of being contacted by a VSO that he or she has been accepted into the program.

2. Any client who has been terminated or ceased attending sessions, will have the right to appeal within 30 days to the DVS through a VSO.

5B:4-2.7 Waiting list

(a) When the program reaches its client capacity, as determined by funding, the provider shall maintain a waiting list with a copy furnished to DVS.

(b) The date the service was requested is the primary factor used to determine when clients are admitted into the program.

(c) At the time of the initial interview, if the veteran is placed on the waiting list, he or she will be advised of the status.

(d) A VSO will maintain personal contact with the veteran at a minimum of once every 30 days, advising him or her of his or her status on the waiting list.

5B:4-2.8 Funding

Funding will be determined annually by the State budget appropriation.

5B:4-2.9 Confidentiality

(a) The personal data of both the veteran and family members in the program and on the waiting list will not be disseminated to any other agency, department, or entity on the Federal, State, county, or municipal level without the approval of the individual veteran and/or family member.

(b) Statistical data compiled without reference to the individual may be used for presentation to all parties who require such for evaluation in support of funding or research.

SUBCHAPTER 3. VETERANS' TUITION CREDIT PROGRAM

(N.J.S.A. 18A:71-64 et seq., 38A:3-2.d(1) et seq., and 38A:3-24 et seq.)

5B:4-3.1 Scope

The Veterans' Tuition Credit Program provides an educational support entitlement to full-time and part-time students who are New Jersey resident veterans and served in the Armed Forces of the United States between December 31, 1960 and May 7, 1975.

5B:4-3.2 Eligible veteran

An eligible veteran must be a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who is or was eligible for veterans' educational assistance pursuant to Federal law and served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States between December 31, 1960 and May 7, 1975.

5B:4-3.3 Residency

(a) The veteran will be considered a resident of the State, if he or she:

1. Was domiciled in New Jersey at the time of induction into the Armed Forces of the United States;

2. Was domiciled in New Jersey at the time of separation from active duty; or

3. Was domiciled in New Jersey for a period of not less than 24 consecutive months prior to the date of application, exclusive of any time spent on active duty.

(b) For purposes of (a) above, "domicile" shall mean the place where a person has a true, fixed, permanent home and principal establishment to which, when absent, there is the intention of returning.

5B:4-3.4 Approved educational institution

(a) An educational institution is:

1. Any academic, professional, or vocational school operating within the State;

2. Any graduate level school operating within the United States; or

3. Any academic, professional, or vocational school operating outside the State.

(b) To qualify as an "approved educational institution," any such institution must have been approved for veterans' educational assistance pursuant to Federal law.

5B:4-3.5 Approved course of study

The eligible veteran shall be enrolled in any curriculum or any combination of unit courses or subjects at an educational institution that is approved for veterans' educational assistance pursuant to Federal law.

5B:4-3.6 Full-time course requirements

(a) An institutional trade or technical course offered at a non-accredited school shall be considered a full-time course when a minimum of 30 hours per week of attendance is required. No more than two and one-half hours of rest periods per week and no more than three hours of supervised study per week shall be counted in satisfying the minimum weekly hours of attendance.

(b) An institutional course offered at a non-accredited school on a clock-hour basis in which theoretical or classroom instruction

predominates shall be considered a full-time course when a minimum of 25 hours per week net of instruction (which may include customary intervals not to exceed 10 minutes between hours of instruction) is required and no more than three hours of supervised study per week is allowed.

(c) An institution trade or technical course offered at an accredited school on a clock-hour basis that leads to a standard trade or technical degree and involves shop practice as an integral part thereof shall be considered a full-time course provided a minimum of 22 hours per week of attendance is required with no more than two and one-half hours of rest periods per week and no more than three hours of supervised study per week is allowed.

(d) An institutional course offered at an accredited school on a clock-hour basis which leads to a standard trade or technical degree in which theoretical or classroom instruction predominates shall be considered a full-time course when a minimum of 18 hours per week of instruction (which may include customary intervals not to exceed 10 minutes between hours of instruction) is required and no more than two and one-half hours of supervised study is allowed.

(e) An academic high school course requiring 16 units for a full course shall be considered a full-time course when a minimum of four units per year is required. A unit is defined to be not less than 120, 60-minute hours or their equivalent of study in a subject in one academic year.

(f) An institutional undergraduate or graduate course offered by a college or university on a quarter- or semester-hour basis shall be considered a full-time course when a minimum of 14 semester hours or the equivalent thereof, for which credit is granted toward a standard college degree (including those for which no credit is granted but which are required to be taken to correct an educational deficiency), is required. Where such college or university certifies that full-time tuition is charged to all undergraduate or graduate students carrying a minimum of less than 14 such semester hours or the equivalent thereof, or all undergraduate or graduate students carrying a minimum of less than 14 such semester hours or the equivalent thereof are considered to be pursuing a full-time course for other administrative purposes, then such an institutional undergraduate or graduate course offered by such college or university with such minimum number of such semester hours shall be considered a full-time course. In the event such minimum number of semester hours is less than 12 semester hours or the equivalent thereof, then 12 semester hours or the equivalent thereof shall be considered a full-time course.

5B:4-3.7 Half-time course requirements

Any course of study which is less than the full-time requirements outlined at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-3.5 must not be less than one-half of the full-time requirements to be eligible. Payment for half-time veterans is described at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-3.8.

5B:4-3.8 Calculation of tuition credit

(a) Each eligible veteran shall be entitled to tuition credit in accordance with the following schedule:

1. For a period of one semester (or the equivalent thereof in part-time tuition credit), in the case of educational institutions regularly operated on the semester system, for each three months or fraction thereof of the veteran's service on active duty after December 31, 1960 and before May 7, 1975. If an eligible veteran has served a period of 18 months or more on active duty during such period of time, he or she shall be entitled to tuition credit for a period of eight semesters (or the equivalent thereof in part-time tuition credit). The maximum credit pursuant to this paragraph shall be for the period of eight semesters;

2. For a period of one-quarter (or the equivalent thereof in part-time tuition credit) in the case of educational institutional regularly operated on the quarter system, for each two months or fraction thereof of the veteran's service on active duty after December 31, 1960 and before May 7, 1975. If an eligible veteran has served a period of 18 months or more on active duty during such period of time, he or she shall be entitled to tuition credit for a period of 12 quarters. The maximum credit pursuant to this paragraph shall be a period of 12 quarters; or

3. For a period of 1½ months of any tuition period (or the equivalent thereof in part-time tuition credit) in the case of educational institutions not operated on the quarter or semester system, for each month or fraction thereof of the veteran's service on active duty after December 31, 1960

and before May 7, 1975. If an eligible veteran has served a period of 18 months or more on active duty during such period of time, he or she shall be entitled to tuition credit for 36 months of tuition credit (or the equivalent thereof in part-time tuition credit). The maximum credit pursuant to this paragraph shall be for the period of 36 months.

(b) If an eligible veteran changes his or her program of study from an educational institution regularly operated on the quarter or semester system or otherwise to an educational institution regularly operated on a different system, he or she shall submit a written request to the DVS program manager for a re-evaluation of the remaining tuition credits.

5B:4-3.9 Award amount

(a) Benefits pursuant to this subchapter shall be in the form of tuition credits limited by the lesser of full tuition or:

1. For educational institutions regularly operated on a semester system, \$200.00 per semester;

2. For educational institutions regularly operated on the quarter system, \$100.00 per quarter; or

3. For educational institutions not regularly operated on the semester or quarter system, \$400.00 per full school-year prorated on an equal basis as determined by the DVS program manager.

(b) The award amounts shown at (a) above will be granted to all eligible veterans who are enrolled as full-time students as determined by the institution; provided this determination meets the minimum requirements as described at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-3.5. For half-time students, the award will be one-half the amount shown.

(c) In the event that program appropriations are insufficient to pay all eligible veterans the amount at (a) above, the DVS program manager shall prorate the available funds.

SUBCHAPTER 4. VIETNAM VETERANS' TUITION AID PROGRAM (N.J.S.A. 18A:71-76.1 et seq., and 38A:3-32 et seq.)

5B:4-4.1 Scope

The Vietnam Veterans' Tuition Aid Program is available to renewal applicants who reside in New Jersey and who received a Vietnam Service Medal or an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and who are pursuing an initial undergraduate degree program in an approved New Jersey two- or four-year college or university. The program is open only to those veterans who applied for acceptance during a legislated open enrollment period, which closed on April 9, 1990.

5B:4-4.2 Eligible Vietnam veterans

(a) An eligible Vietnam veteran shall have:

1. Served in the Armed Forces of the United States in Southeast Asia in the Vietnam Conflict and received a Vietnam Service Ribbon or an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal;

2. Been honorably discharged or generally discharged under honorable conditions; and

3. Been domiciled in New Jersey at the time of the effective date of N.J.S.A. 18A:71-76.1 et seq., for a period of not less than two consecutive years, exclusive of any time spent on active duty.

5B:4-4.3 Eligible institutions

Tuition benefits are available to eligible veterans enrolled in a public institution of higher education in this State or at an independent college or university located in this State licensed by the Commission of Higher Education or approved for the training of veterans by the Commission on Higher Education.

5B:4-4.4 Undergraduate enrollment

(a) The eligible Vietnam veteran must be enrolled or plan to enroll in an approved undergraduate degree program on at least a one-half time basis, that is, six credits per term, to be eligible to receive tuition benefits.

(b) The eligible Vietnam veteran with a 30 percent or more service-connected disability as rated by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs shall be exempted from the six credit per term requirement and shall be allowed to register for less than six credit hours and still receive tuition assistance.

(c) The program is only applicable to the student's initial undergraduate degree program. A student who has earned the highest

undergraduate degree offered by an institution shall not be eligible for benefits through this program at that institution. Students already possessing a baccalaureate degree are not eligible.

5B:4-4.5 Award amount

(a) Eligible Vietnam veterans attending a public institution of higher education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5B:4-4.4 shall be entitled to tuition assistance in an amount not to exceed the tuition that they are charged.

(b) Eligible Vietnam veterans attending an independent college or university pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5B:4-4.4 shall be eligible for tuition assistance in an amount not to exceed the tuition that they are charged; however, the award shall not exceed the maximum tuition charged a resident undergraduate student at Rutgers, the State University.

(c) Students who attend less than full-time will be eligible to receive awards during summer terms, as long as their total award during the period from September 1 to the following August 31 of any academic year does not exceed the award amount to a full-time undergraduate student at the same institution participating in this program during the regular academic year.

5B:4-4.6 Other financial aid programs

The amount of tuition assistance through this program when combined with other scholarships and grant assistance shall not exceed the student's educational budget.

5B:4-4.7 Period of eligibility

A Vietnam veteran shall be eligible for a tuition award for four academic years, unless enrolled in an undergraduate program regularly requiring five academic years for completion, in which case the student shall be entitled to a tuition award for a fifth year.

5B:4-4.8 Renewal

In order to continue to receive tuition benefits through this program, the eligible veteran must maintain good academic standing as defined in accordance with the standards established and enforced by the institution and approved by the Commission on Higher Education, the State Approving Agency, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. §§ 1775 and 1776.

SUBCHAPTER 5. TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN OF POW/MIAS (N.J.S.A. 18A:71-61 et seq., 38A:3-2.d(1) et seq., and 38A:3-23 et seq.)

5B:4-5.1 Scope

The Tuition Assistance for Children of POW/MIAs Program is available to any dependent of a United States' Armed Forces prisoner of war or a person missing in action (POW/MIA) who was a resident of the State upon being accepted to pursue a course of undergraduate study in any private institution of higher education in this State or in any public institution of higher education of this State as enumerated at N.J.S.A. 18A:62-1. The dependent shall be allowed to obtain a bachelors degree, or certificate of completion, for so long as he or she is eligible, free of tuition.

5B:4-5.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, as used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Dependent" shall mean any child born before or during the period of time its parent was a prisoner of war or a person missing in action, or any child legally adopted or in the legal custody of the parent prior to and during the time the parent was a prisoner of war or a person missing in action.

"Prisoner of war and person missing in action (POW/MIA)" shall mean any person who was a resident of the State at the time he or she entered service of the United States Armed Forces, or whose official residence is within this State, and who, while serving in the Armed Forces has been declared to be a prisoner of war, or to be a person missing in action as established by the Secretary of Defense after January 1, 1960.

5B:4-5.3 Application procedures and terms of eligibility

(a) Once a person qualifies as a dependent, there shall be no situation, such as the return of the parent or the reported death of the parent, that will terminate the eligibility of the dependent.

(b) Once a dependent has been determined eligible for benefits, the student shall not need to reapply for the program.

(c) Prior to the start of each academic year, each renewal student's file will be reviewed for remaining eligibility. Students may receive up to 2.5 years (five semesters) of payment at the two-year college level and up to four years (eight semesters) of payment at four-year institution (up to five years or 10 semesters of payment, if the student is enrolled in a regular program which requires five years of study). Renewal students with remaining eligibility should be contacted during the summer, prior to the start of each academic year, regarding their upcoming enrollment plans.

SUBCHAPTER 6. TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR WAR ORPHANS (N.J.S.A. 38:20-1 et seq.)

5B:4-6.1 Scope

The Tuition Assistance for War Orphans Program provides for the educational assistance of State war orphans.

5B:4-6.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, as used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Time of emergency" shall mean and include any time after June 28, 1950, and prior to termination, suspension, or revocation of the proclamation of the existence of a national emergency issued by the President of the United States on December 16, 1950, or termination of the existence of such national emergency by appropriate action of the President or Congress of the United States. "Time of emergency" shall also include any time of armed hostility or conflict with foreign adversary after December 31, 1960, and prior to the termination of the existence of such armed hostility or conflict with a foreign adversary by appropriate action of the President or Congress of the United States.

"War" shall mean any of the following:

1. The Lebanon peacekeeping mission, September 26, 1982 and prior to December 1, 1987;
2. The Grenada peacekeeping mission, October 23, 1983 and prior to November 21, 1983;
3. The Panama peacekeeping mission, December 20, 1989 and prior to January 31, 1990;
4. Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, August 2, 1990, and prior to February 28, 1991;
5. Operation Northern Watch and Southern Watch, August 27, 1992, and prior to March 18, 2003;
6. Operation Enduring Freedom, September 11, 2001 and ongoing; and
7. Operation Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn, March 19, 2003, and ongoing.

"War orphan" shall mean any child between the ages of 16 and 21 years, domiciled in the State for at least 12 months prior to the time of application for benefits pursuant to this program, who being otherwise qualified, is the child of any resident of this State who was killed in action or died from other causes while a member of the Armed Forces of the United States in time of war or emergency, or who is officially listed as "Missing in Action" by the Department of Defense, or who died or shall hereafter die of disease or disability resulting from such war or emergency.

5B:4-6.3 Educational awards

(a) Educational awards shall be used to defray the cost and expense of the attendance of any eligible orphan at any State educational or other technical or professional school of education located in the State, approved by the State Board of Education located in the State or outside the State, if the desired course is not offered by a school or college in the State.

(b) Educational awards will be allocated for tuition or matriculation fees, board and room rent, books and supplies, and other purposes incidental thereto.

(c) No more than four annual allotments of \$500.00 each will be allowed to any one applicant.

5B:4-6.4 Application

(a) An application by otherwise eligible children will be made by letter directly to the Department. The application shall include:

1. Proof of relationship to the deceased Armed Forces service member, that is, a birth certificate;
2. Proof of New Jersey residency as indicated at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-6.2;
3. Proof of acceptance into a recognized New Jersey institution of higher learning as indicated at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-6.3(a);
4. POW/MIA—DD Form 1300; and
5. A death certificate of the deceased, showing that the veteran was either killed in action or died from other causes while a member of the Armed Forces of the United States in time of war or emergency, who is officially listed as “Missing in Action” by the Department of Defense, or who died or shall hereafter die of disease or disability resulting from such war or emergency.

SUBCHAPTER 7. VETERANS’ CATASTROPHIC ENTITLEMENT (N.J.S.A. 38:18-1 et seq., and 38:18A-1 et seq.)

5B:4-7.1 Scope

(a) This subchapter is applicable to all residents of the State who served in any capacity with the Armed Forces of the United States, including the National Guard or Reserve during wartime periods specified at N.J.S.A. 38:18-1 and 38:18A-1 and who have a permanent service-connected disability rating from the United States Department of Veterans’ Affairs for one of seven disabilities declared to be catastrophic in nature by the Department.

(b) In addition to eligible New Jersey veterans, this subchapter applies to all widows/widowers of those New Jersey veterans who were in receipt of the veteran’s catastrophic entitlement prior to the death or who would have been entitled had the veteran made application prior to death.

5B:4-7.2 Veterans’ Catastrophic Entitlement eligibility criteria

(a) In order to be eligible for a Veterans’ Catastrophic Entitlement, a veteran must:

1. Have been a legal resident of New Jersey at the time of initial induction into the Armed Services of the United States;
2. Provide proof of discharge from the Armed Services of the United States indicating that the character of service was other than dishonorable or undesirable;
3. Be a legal resident of New Jersey at time of application and must reside in the State of New Jersey while in receipt of the entitlement, except for reasons of health or employment; and
4. In addition to satisfying paragraphs (a)1, 2, and 3 above, satisfy subparagraph (a)4i or ii below.
 - i. Have suffered loss of sight as a result of serving during World War II or from June 23, 1950 and on or prior to January 31, 1955 or have suffered catastrophic disabilities as listed at (d) below as a result of service during World War II or the Korean Conflict (any time after June 23, 1950 and prior to July 27, 1953) or the Vietnam Conflict (any time after December 31, 1960 and prior to August 1, 1974); or
 - ii. Have served during any of the following:
 - (1) The Lebanon peacekeeping mission, September 26, 1982 and prior to December 1, 1987;
 - (2) The Grenada peacekeeping mission, October 23, 1983 and prior to November 21, 1983;
 - (3) The Panama peacekeeping mission, December 20, 1989 and prior to January 31, 1990;
 - (4) Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm August 2, 1990, and prior to February 28, 1991;
 - (5) Operation Northern Watch and Southern Watch, August 27, 1992, and prior to March 18, 2003;
 - (6) Operation Enduring Freedom, September 11, 2001 and ongoing; or
 - (7) Operation Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn, March 19, 2003, and ongoing.

(b) Residency is defined as the place where a veteran has a true, fixed permanent home and permanent establishment, and to which, whenever the veteran is absent, there is the intention of returning.

(c) New Jersey residency must be in accordance with the definition of “resident.”

(d) The veteran must be in receipt of a permanent service-connected disability rating from the United States Department of Veterans’ Affairs that resulted from wartime service specified at N.J.S.A. 38:18-1 and 38:18A-1 for one of seven disabilities recognized to be catastrophic in

nature by the Department. The seven catastrophic disabilities for the Veterans’ Catastrophic Entitlement are defined as the following conditions resulting from injury to the spinal cord, skeletal structure, brain, or eyes sustained during wartime and through enemy action, an accident, or from disease contracted while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States:

1. Loss of sight;
2. Amputation of both hands, both feet, or one hand and one foot;
3. Hemiplegia and permanent paralysis of one leg and one arm or either side of the body;
4. Paraplegia and permanent paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body;
5. Osteochondritis and permanent loss of the use of both legs;
6. Multiple Sclerosis and the loss of use of both feet or both legs; or
7. Quadriplegia.

5B:4-7.3 Application

(a) An application by veterans shall be filed at any district of the Division of Veterans Services. An application shall include:

1. A copy of the Veterans DD 214, indicating induction into service and character of discharge;
2. Proof of New Jersey residency as indicated at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-7.2; and
3. A marriage certificate, if applicable.

(b) A certified marriage certificate will be submitted to the Division of Veterans Services within one year of marriage when the marriage is subsequent to entitlement.

(c) An application for each catastrophic disability shall be filed separately in the event the veteran has more than one disability.

5B:4-7.4 Entitlement awards

(a) Entitlement awards will be granted by the date the application was received in the district office of the Division of Veterans Services.

(b) For each catastrophic disability, the award is \$750.00 annually.

5B:4-7.5 Change of address within the State

The veteran shall submit a change of address within the State within 30 days of the address change to the Division of Veterans Services.

5B:4-7.6 Change of address out-of-State

(a) Continuity of entitlement for a veteran receiving the entitlement who moves out-of-State shall be granted if the move was for reasons of the veteran’s health or employment, pursuant to this section.

(b) A change of address shall be submitted to the Division of Veterans Services within 30 days of address change.

(c) The following medical or employment documentation shall be submitted by a veteran moving out-of-State who wishes to continue his or her entitlement:

1. A doctor’s statement indicating the disability and necessity for change of address; or
2. An employer’s statement indicating the out-of-State position’s title and date of hire.

(d) Entitlement awards shall be suspended by the Division of Veterans Services for 90 days pending submission of documentation set forth at (c) above to the Division of Veterans Services within 30 days of the effective date of the requested change of address.

(e) Retroactive payment shall be granted upon receipt of documentation as indicated at (c) above.

(f) Entitlement shall be terminated if documentation is not submitted as indicated at (c) above by the end of the 90-day suspension period.

(g) Entitlement without retroactive payment may be granted pending the filing of a new application as indicated at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-7.2, 7.3, and 7.4.

(h) In states where substantially similar compensation is available pursuant to an act where the veteran establishes new residency, the veteran may elect to continue to receive the entitlement from the State of New Jersey to the exclusion of payment from that state.

(i) The Director of the Division of Veterans Services shall notify the veteran by letter if similar compensation is available from the state to which the veteran moved. In the event that such state provides similar compensation and the veteran elects continued entitlement from the State

of New Jersey, verification of non-receipt of similar compensation payments shall be provided by the veteran within 30 days.

(j) In the event a veteran visits friends or relatives out-of-State for more than 60 days, the veteran shall notify the Division of Veterans Services within 30 days for continuity of entitlement. Out-of-State visiting for more than six months shall be considered an out-of-State address change. Continuity of entitlement shall be granted as indicated at (a) through (h) above.

5B:4-7.7 Right to appeal

A veteran, a veteran's representative, or next of kin may appeal a decision for eligibility for entitlement within one year of notification of decision. The appeal shall be in writing and submitted with any new and material evidence to the Director of Division of Veterans Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs for final determination. The Director will respond to the appeal with a final decision within 60 days. If the appeal is received subsequent to the one-year appeal period, it will be considered a new claim.

5B:4-7.8 Spouse Catastrophic Entitlement

(a) Spouse Catastrophic Entitlement will be in accordance with the provisions of the application process, eligibility criteria, approval criteria, and termination as they apply to the veteran as set forth at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-7.2, 7.3, and 7.4.

(b) The procedure for a change of address within or to another state is the same as those for the veteran as set forth at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-7.5 and 7.6(a) through (j).

1. Entitlement will be granted to a spouse living out-of-State at time of application when the veteran was granted out-of-State entitlement prior to death.

2. In the event said spouse moves out-of-State to a state other than New Jersey, entitlement and retroactive payment shall be granted as set forth at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-7.6(a) through (h).

(c) Entitlement shall be granted for each catastrophic disability that the deceased veteran was granted prior to death or would have been granted had the veteran made application as set forth at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-7.4(b). Application for each catastrophic disability will be filed separately as directed at N.J.A.C. 5B:4-7.3(b).

APPENDIX

 NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONTRACT SERVICE AUTHORIZATION INSTRUCTIONS				
Please print all answers. Please email this form and supporting documents to VBB@dva.nj.gov .				
Please submit the following documents along with the CSA:				
• DD214, showing character of service • Proof of residency (for example utility bill or Driver's license) • Marriage Certificate or Birth Certificate (for Family member application)				
SERVICE PROVIDER INFORMATION				
1. Name of Contractor Providing Service				
2. Address of Service Provider			3. Phone number of Service Provider	
VETERAN INFORMATION				
4. Name (Last, first, middle initial - Please Print)			5. Social Security Number	
6. Address			7. Email	
8. County				
9. Phone			10. Relationship to Veteran	
			☐ VETERAN ☐ SPOUSE ☐ CHILD	
11. Veteran's name (if Spouse or Child CSA)			12. Veteran's Social Security Number (if Spouse or Child CSA)	
13. Branch of Service (check one)				
☐ AIR FORCE ☐ ARMY ☐ COAST GUARD ☐ MARINES ☐ NATIONAL GUARD ☐ NAVY ☐ RESERVE ☐ SPACE FORCE				
14. Service Period (check one)				
☐ OIF ☐ OEF ☐ VIETNAM ☐ DS/DS ☐ WWII ☐ OTHER*				
*If Other please specify				
15. This Veteran/Client has been determined eligible for the following:				
☐ 4 ASSESSMENT ☐ FULL PROGRAM				
16. I/We have informed the Veteran/Client of the following:				
☐ He/She is eligible for an initial four (4) visits for assessment. ☐ If additional services are indicated, a treatment plan must be provided, to authorize continued contract services				
RELEASE STATEMENT/INFORMATION				
The provider must treat all personal records of applicants for and the recipients of contract services in accordance with all applicable Federal and State legislation and regulations, including Executive Orders, governing access to and confidentiality of records. With exceptions specified below, the Provider may not release or disclose records except to authorized personnel of the provider, the State Agency or another appropriate unit, agency, or agent of State or Federal government which is approved by the State Agency for receipt of the information. Exceptions are as follows:				
(1) When release or disclosure is court ordered;				
(2) When the applicant or recipient gives prior written approval as to the information to be released or disclosed and the person(s) and/or agency(ies) to receive information.				
AUTHORIZATION INFORMATION				
17. County	18. Signature	19. Title	20. Date	21. Phone

NJ DVA Form 50, 17 February 2026