
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1139 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY STACK, FERLO, KITCHEN, WASHINGTON, TEPLITZ,
GREENLEAF, SMITH, BREWSTER, RAFFERTY, FONTANA, ERICKSON,
SOLOBAY AND HUGHES, JANUARY 13, 2014

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
JANUARY 13, 2014

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for military family
3 relief assistance.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 7319(b)(2) introductory paragraph and
7 (iii), (c)(2), (f), (h) and the definition of "eligible service
8 member" in subsection (j) of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania
9 Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

10 § 7319. Military family relief assistance.

11 * * *

12 (b) Administration of program.--

13 * * *

14 (2) The Military Family Relief Assistance Program is
15 established. Contributions and appropriations received for
16 the fund shall be distributed by the department under the
17 program to eligible service members and eligible relatives of

1 eligible service members. Applicants must demonstrate to the
2 department that they have a direct and immediate financial
3 need as a result of the military service of the service
4 member. Such circumstances must be beyond the control of and
5 not as a result of misconduct by the service member. The
6 applicant shall demonstrate that the financial need is caused
7 by one or more of the following:

8 * * *

9 (iii) The wounding of the service member in the line
10 of duty sustained as a result of combat or attack
11 resulting in an immediate need for funds for travel,
12 lodging, subsistence or other activities directly related
13 to the casualty for which the applicant lacks financial
14 resources. [No more than two eligible relatives of an
15 eligible service member may receive assistance under this
16 subparagraph.]

17 * * *

18 (c) Guidelines.--The department shall, in consultation with
19 the chairman and minority chairman of the Appropriations
20 Committee of the Senate, the chairman and minority chairman of
21 the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives,
22 the chairman and minority chairman of the Veterans Affairs and
23 Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate and the chairman
24 and minority chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency
25 Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives, develop
26 guidelines necessary to administer the provisions of this
27 section. The guidelines established under this subsection shall
28 do all of the following:

29 * * *

30 (2) Set forth the maximum amount of relief and the

1 maximum number of applicants per event or episode. The
2 maximum amount of relief granted may not exceed \$10,000 per
3 applicant. No more than \$20,000 may be paid to an eligible
4 service member and the eligible relatives of an eligible
5 service member in any 12-month period.

6 * * *

7 (f) Future appropriations.--[The General Assembly may
8 appropriate funds for transfer to the fund for the purposes of
9 this section.] Beginning in fiscal year 2014-2015, the General
10 Assembly shall annually appropriate the sum of \$2,500,000 to the
11 fund for purposes of this section.

12 * * *

13 (h) Expiration.--This section shall expire June 30, [2016]
14 2022.

15 * * *

16 (j) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
17 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
18 subsection:

19 * * *

20 "Eligible service member."

21 (1) Any of the following:

22 (i) A member of the armed forces of the United
23 States or its reserve components, including the
24 Pennsylvania National Guard, who is serving on active
25 duty other than active duty for training for a period of
26 30 or more consecutive days.

27 (ii) A member of the Pennsylvania National Guard
28 serving on State active duty for a period of 30 or more
29 consecutive days.

30 (iii) A member in good standing of any reserve

1 component of the armed forces of the United States,
2 including the Pennsylvania National Guard, for a period
3 of [one year] two years after release from a tour of
4 active duty, other than active duty for training, or
5 State active duty of 30 or more consecutive days'
6 duration when the need for assistance is directly related
7 to the member's performance of active duty or State
8 active duty.

9 (iv) A former member of the armed forces of the
10 United States or its reserve components, including the
11 Pennsylvania National Guard, for a period of [two] four
12 years after discharge if:

13 (A) The member was discharged for medical
14 reasons arising out of the member's military service.

15 (B) The medical disability that resulted in the
16 member's discharge was incurred in the line of duty
17 and was not the result of misconduct.

18 (C) The medical condition giving rise to the
19 discharge did not exist prior to the member entering
20 military service.

21 (D) The medical disability was incurred while
22 the member was serving on active duty, other than
23 active duty for training, or State active duty for a
24 period of 30 or more consecutive days.

25 (E) The former member received an honorable
26 discharge for medical reasons.

27 (F) The need for assistance is directly related
28 to the former member's military service or the
29 disability incurred as a result of the military
30 service.

1 (2) An eligible service member must be a resident of
2 Pennsylvania at the time of the application for assistance.

3 * * *

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.