

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 474

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 23, 2023

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 474.

This bill requires the Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to appoint a veteran to serve as the Women Veterans Coordinator.

The coordinator will help women veterans who have been discharged or released under other than dishonorable conditions from the United States Armed Forces, or a Reserve component thereof, including the New Jersey National Guard.

At a minimum, the coordinator will:

work to assist women veterans with issues including, but not limited to, employment, education, counseling, housing, social and medical services, and other areas of concern to women veterans;

identify, develop, plan, organize, and coordinate Statewide programs and services to meet the needs of women veterans;

develop and distribute informational materials regarding benefits and programs that provide services and resources to women veterans and their families; and

make recommendations to the Adjutant General to ensure compliance with existing polices and regulations pertaining to the needs of women veterans on the State and federal level, and make recommendations regarding the improvement of benefits and services to women veterans.

The coordinator will hold quarterly meetings, and make annual recommendations to the Legislature and Governor concerning existing or proposed programs, or legislation to further the objectives of the bill.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.