

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5531

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 22, 2023

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5531.

This bill establishes a program to provide reimbursement, subject to available State or federal funding, to qualified county governments that provide transportation services to disabled veterans to and from medical counseling appointments for service-connected conditions within the State.

The bill defines "disabled veteran" to mean any citizen and resident of this State now or hereafter honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, a Reserve component thereof, or the National Guard and who has been or will be declared by the United States Veterans Administration, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability.

The bill appropriates \$2 million to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to effectuate the purpose of the bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the bill may incentivize some counties to newly provide transportation services to and from medical counseling appointments for disabled veterans for their service-connected conditions. These counties will incur an indeterminate amount of annual cost increases. Counties that may already provide these services will not experience any cost increases under the bill.

State costs may increase by up to \$2 million in the first year the bill is in effect and by an indeterminate amount thereafter to provide reimbursements to counties for their transportation costs. The bill appropriates \$2 million for these reimbursements.

County revenues may increase by up to \$2 million in the first year the bill is in effect and by an indeterminate amount thereafter from these State reimbursements.