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# Senate Clears Testa Bill that Would Increase Benefits for Veterans and Their Spouses

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**Date :** 16-06-2022

Veterans with service-connected injuries, and spouses of veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice, may soon receive additional financial benefits from the State of New Jersey thanks to legislation sponsored by Senator Michael Testa and approved today by the New Jersey Senate.



Veterans with service-connected injuries may soon receive additional financial benefits from the State of New Jersey thanks to legislation sponsored by Sen. Michael Testa and approved today by the NJ Senate. (©iStock)

"I am proud this legislation was advanced today. It is our duty to ensure the well-being of New Jersey's veterans and their spouses," said Testa (R-1). "Some veterans have suffered significant disabilities in the line of duty including permanent paralysis and loss of sight. This bill will offer some much needed financial relief and stability to these injured veterans, and their loved ones, during their time of need."

Testa's bill, [S-1536/A-1477](#), would increase the annual payment—from \$750 to \$1,800—made by the state to a veteran with certain specified service-connected disabilities and the surviving spouse of that veteran.

Service-connected injuries include, but are not limited to, total loss of sight, paralysis, or

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amputation.

“Shockingly, the amount paid to disabled veterans has remained the same for 40 years,” added Testa. “This legislation will more than double the amount veterans receive under current law and help account for inflation and rising health care costs. These benefits are hard-earned and well-deserved for those who have sacrificed so much to protect our country.”