S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

909

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 9, 2013

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to developing plans to adequately address military sexual trauma experienced by female veterans

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 7.09 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding two new subdivisions (k) and (l) to read as follows:

(K) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO FEMALE VETERANS, WHEN APPLICABLE, REGARDING WHICH VETERANS' AFFAIRS CENTERS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SUCH FEMALE VETERANS CAN SEEK TREATMENT, COUNSELING AND RESOURCES FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA. SUCH INFORMATION SHALL BE POSTED ON THE OFFICE'S WEBSITE WITH A LINK TO THE WEBSITE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND A LINK TO THE WEBSITE OF THE STATE DIVISION OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA SHALL MEAN PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA, WHICH IN THE JUDGMENT OF A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, RESULTED FROM A PHYSICAL ATTACK OF A SEXUAL NATURE, BATTERY OF A SEXUAL NATURE OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT WHICH OCCURRED WHILE THE VETERAN WAS SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY OR ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING.

(L) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH PEER COUNSELING AND SUPPORT SERVICES REGARDING MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA FOR FEMALE VETERANS AT ONE OR MORE FACILITIES OPERATED OR CERTIFIED BY THE OFFICE IF THE COMMISSIONER DEEMS IT APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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