STATE OF NEW YORK

9869

IN ASSEMBLY

April 19, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. EPSTEIN, ASHBY -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to adding veterans to protected classes for unlawful housing discrimination

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 296 of the executive law is amended by adding a new subdivision 2-c to read as follows:

2-c. (a) It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for the owner, lessee, sub-lessee, assignee, or managing agent of publicly-assisted housing accommodations or other person having the right of ownership or possession of or the right to rent or lease such accommodations to refuse to sell, rent or lease or otherwise to deny to or withhold from any person or group of persons such housing accommodations because of such person's status as a veteran.

(b) For the purposes of this subdivision, the term "veteran" means a person, resident of this state, who served in the United States army, navy, air force, space force, marine corps, coast guard, and/or reserves thereof, and/or in the army national guard, air national guard, New York guard and/or New York naval militia, and/or who served as a member of the commissioned corps of the national oceanic and atmospheric administration or the United States public health service regardless of discharge status.

§ 2. Subdivision 5 of section 296 of the executive law is amended by adding a new paragraph (h) to read as follows:

(h) (1) It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for any person offering or providing housing accommodations, land or commercial space as described in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this subdivision to refuse to sell, rent or lease any housing accommodation, land or commercial space to any person because of such person's status as a veteran.

(2) For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "veteran" means a person, resident of this state, who served in the United States army, navy, air force, space force, marine corps, coast guard, and/or reserves thereof, and/or in the army national guard, air national guard, New York

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

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guard and/or New York naval militia, and/or who served as a member of the commissioned corps of the national oceanic and atmospheric administration or the United States public health service regardless of discharge status.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.