

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8491

## IN SENATE

March 7, 2022

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to establishing discount programs for veterans

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

1 Section 1. The public service law is amended by adding a new section  
2 66-s to read as follows:

3 § 66-s. Utility discount program. 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other  
4 provision of law, the commission is authorized and directed to require a  
5 gas corporation, electric corporation or municipality to establish a  
6 discount program for veterans no later than ninety days after the effec-  
7 tive date of this section. Such program shall offer a yearly benefit to  
8 veterans in the form of a ten percent discount on utility bills. The  
9 fiscal impact of such program shall not be borne by customers and shall  
10 not be added to bills rendered by a gas corporation, electric corpo-  
11 ration or municipality to customers.

12 (b) A gas corporation, electric corporation or municipality which  
13 offers such discount program shall conspicuously advertise the avail-  
14 ability and amount of such discount on the website of such gas corpo-  
15 ration, electric corporation or municipality. The availability and  
16 amount of such discount shall also be conspicuously advertised on the  
17 accessibility page of the website of such gas corporation, electric  
18 corporation or municipality.

19 2. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" shall mean a resident  
20 of the state who served in and who received any honorable or general  
21 discharge from the United States army, navy, air force, marine corps,  
22 coast guard and/or the reserves thereof, and/or the army national guard,  
23 air national guard, New York guard or New York naval militia.

24 § 2. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 89-q to  
25 read as follows:

26 § 89-q. Water discount program. 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other  
27 provision of law, the commission is authorized and directed to require

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

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1 waterworks corporations and municipal water systems to establish a  
2 discount program for veterans no later than ninety days after the effec-  
3 tive date of this section. Such program shall offer a yearly benefit to  
4 veterans in the form of a ten percent discount on water utility bills.  
5 The fiscal impact of such program shall not be borne by customers and  
6 shall not be added to bills rendered by a waterworks corporation or  
7 municipal water system to customers.

8 (b) A waterworks corporation or municipal water system which offers  
9 such discount program shall conspicuously advertise the availability and  
10 amount of such discount on the website of such waterworks corporation or  
11 municipal water system. The availability and amount of such discount  
12 shall also be conspicuously advertised on the accessibility page of the  
13 website of such waterworks corporation or municipal water system.

14 2. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" shall mean a resident  
15 of the state who served in and who received any honorable or general  
16 discharge from the United States army, navy, air force, marine corps,  
17 coast guard and/or the reserves thereof, and/or the army national guard,  
18 air national guard, New York guard or New York naval militia.

19 § 3. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 91-b to  
20 read as follows:

21 § 91-b. Telephone discount program. 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other  
22 provision of law, the commission is authorized and directed to require a  
23 telephone corporation to establish a discount program for veterans no  
24 later than ninety days after the effective date of this section. Such  
25 program shall offer a yearly benefit to veterans in the form of a ten  
26 percent discount on telephone bills. The fiscal impact of such program  
27 shall not be borne by customers and shall not be added to bills rendered  
28 by a telephone corporation to customers.

29 (b) A telephone corporation which offers such discount program shall  
30 conspicuously advertise the availability and amount of such discount on  
31 the website of such telephone corporation. The availability and amount  
32 of such discount shall also be conspicuously advertised on the accessi-  
33 bility page of the website of such telephone corporation.

34 2. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" shall mean a resident  
35 of the state who served in and who received any honorable or general  
36 discharge from the United States army, navy, air force, marine corps,  
37 coast guard and/or the reserves thereof, and/or the army national guard,  
38 air national guard, New York guard or New York naval militia.

39 § 4. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 224-d  
40 to read as follows:

41 § 224-d. Cable discount program. 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other  
42 provision of law, the commission is authorized and directed to require a  
43 telephone corporation, as defined in subdivision seventeen of section  
44 two of this chapter, and a cable television company, as defined in  
45 section two hundred twelve of this article, that provides cable service  
46 to customers in New York, to establish a discount program for veterans  
47 no later than ninety days after the effective date of this section. Such  
48 program shall offer a yearly benefit to veterans in the form of a ten  
49 percent discount on cable bills. The fiscal impact of such program shall  
50 not be borne by customers and shall not be added to bills rendered by a  
51 telephone corporation or cable television company to customers.

52 (b) A telephone corporation or cable television company which offers  
53 such discount program shall conspicuously advertise the availability and  
54 amount of such discount on the website of such telephone corporation or  
55 cable television company. The availability and amount of such discount

1 shall also be conspicuously advertised on the accessibility page of the  
2 website of such telephone corporation or cable television company.

3 2. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" shall mean a resident  
4 of the state who served in and who received any honorable or general  
5 discharge from the United States army, navy, air force, marine corps,  
6 coast guard and/or the reserves thereof, and/or the army national guard,  
7 air national guard, New York guard or New York naval militia.

8 § 5. This act shall take effect immediately.