

STATE OF NEW YORK

6655

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 3, 2023

Introduced by Sens. GRIFFO, LANZA -- 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 executive law, in relation to the establishment of the New York state veterans cemetery act

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "New York state veterans cemetery act".

3 § 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 368-c to
4 read as follows:

5 § 368-c. Veterans cemetery funding promotion program. The division is
6 hereby directed to establish, produce and conduct a New York state
7 veterans cemetery funding promotion program. The purpose of the New York
8 state veterans cemetery funding program would be to encourage the giving
9 of financial contributions, by individuals, groups and corporations, to
10 the veterans remembrance and cemetery maintenance and operation fund,
11 created pursuant to section ninety-seven-mmmm of the state finance law,
12 which was established to provide funding for veterans cemeteries pursu-
13 ant to the New York state veterans cemetery program created under
14 section three hundred sixty-five of this chapter. In establishing the
15 New York state veterans cemetery funding promotion program, the division
16 shall establish, produce and conduct programs, projects, and materials
17 designed to encourage the giving of financial contributions, by individ-
18 uals, groups and corporations, to the veterans remembrance and cemetery
19 maintenance and operation fund. The division shall further seek, and may
20 apply on behalf of the state of New York, for grants and contributions,
21 from governments and/or other institutional funding sources, for deposit
22 in, and use by, the veterans remembrance and cemetery maintenance and
23 operation fund, for the purpose of constructing, operating and financing
24 New York state veterans cemeteries. Every year, not later than the

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

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1 fifteenth of December, the division shall produce a report of the activ-
2 ities and operation of the New York state veterans cemetery funding
3 promotion program, and shall deliver a copy of such report to the gover-
4 nor, the temporary president of the senate, the senate minority leader,
5 the speaker of the assembly, the assembly minority leader, the chair of
6 the senate standing committee on veterans, homeland security and mili-
7 tary affairs, the ranking member of the senate standing committee on
8 veterans, homeland security and military affairs, the chair of the
9 assembly standing committee on veterans' affairs, and the ranking member
10 of the assembly standing committee on veterans' affairs. Such report
11 shall contain information on the operations and progress of the New York
12 state veterans cemetery funding promotion program, as well as recommen-
13 dations to the legislature on the New York state veterans cemetery fund-
14 ing promotion program, and establishing, maintaining and operating state
15 veterans cemeteries in accordance with the New York state veterans ceme-
16 tery program.

17 § 3. The veterans' services law is amended by adding a new section
18 24-a to read as follows:

19 § 24-a. Veterans cemetery funding promotion program. The department is
20 hereby directed to establish, produce and conduct a New York state
21 veterans cemetery funding promotion program. The purpose of the New York
22 state veterans cemetery funding promotion program would be to encourage
23 the giving of financial contributions, by individuals, groups and corpo-
24 rations, to the veterans remembrance and cemetery maintenance and opera-
25 tion fund, created pursuant to section ninety-seven-mmmm of the state
26 finance law, which was established to provide funding for veterans ceme-
27 teries pursuant to the New York state veterans cemetery program created
28 under section twenty-four of this article. In establishing the New York
29 state veterans cemetery funding promotion program, the department shall
30 establish, produce and conduct programs, projects, and materials
31 designed to encourage the giving of financial contributions, by individ-
32 uals, groups and corporations, to the veterans remembrance and cemetery
33 maintenance and operation fund. The department shall further seek, and
34 may apply on behalf of the state of New York, for grants and contrib-
35 utions, from governments and/or other institutional funding sources, for
36 deposit in, and use by, the veterans remembrance and cemetery mainte-
37 nance and operation fund, for the purpose of constructing, operating and
38 financing New York state veterans cemeteries. Every year, not later than
39 the fifteenth of December, the department shall produce a report of the
40 activities and operation of the New York state veterans cemetery funding
41 promotion program, and shall deliver a copy of such report to the gover-
42 nor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly,
43 the chair of the senate standing committee on veterans, homeland securi-
44 ty and military affairs and the chair of the assembly standing committee
45 on veterans' affairs. Such report shall contain information on the oper-
46 ations and progress of the New York state veterans cemetery funding
47 promotion program, as well as recommendations to the legislature on the
48 New York state veterans cemetery funding promotion program, and estab-
49 lishing, maintaining and operating state veterans cemeteries in accord-
50 ance with the New York state veterans cemetery program.

51 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that
52 section 368-c of the executive law as added by section two of this act
53 shall be subject to the repeal of such article pursuant to section 1 of
54 part PP of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, as amended, when upon such
55 date the provisions of section three of this act shall take effect.