STATE OF NEW YORK

3397

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 27, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. RAGA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT to amend the veterans' services law, in relation to revising the New York state veteran's memorial and monument registry

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

Section 1. Section 29-a of the veterans' services law, as added by chapter 14 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

§ 29-a. [~~Veterans~~] **New York state veteran's** memorial **and monument** registry. 1. The **New York state veteran's memorial and monument registry is hereby established and shall be developed and maintained by the** department [~~is directed to develop a veterans memorial registry in consultation~~] **in collaboration** with the director of the New York state military museum and veterans resource center, the commissioner of the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation, the commissioner of the office of general services [~~and~~]**,** the state historian**, and respective agencies and veteran organizations within New York towns, villages, counties and cities**. The registry shall be made available on the department's website.

2. The registry shall consist of a searchable **and filterable** database of those [~~veterans~~] **veteran's** memorials located within the state submitted pursuant to subdivision three of this section. The registry shall include, but not be limited to, [~~information regarding~~] **a comprehensive list of all dedicated veteran monuments and memorials,** the location**, history, significance, and images** of [~~a memorial and~~] **such dedicated veteran monuments and memorials,** who or what veteran or battle such memorial is honoring[~~. Additional information may include historical~~] **and** information such as who authorized the erection of such memorial and the year of the dedication. Such registry shall be searchable **and filterable** by location, veteran [~~or~~]**, conflict era,** battle **or any other criteria the state commissioner deems relevant**.

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

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3. The state commissioner shall issue, on behalf of the department, a public request for information for any county, city, town, or village desiring to have any memorial located within their municipality listed within the registry. Each county, city, town[~~, or~~] **and** village [~~may~~] **shall** submit responses to the department's request for information [~~at any time~~] **within one hundred twenty days** after the request for information has been issued**; provided, however, every county, city, town and village with a population of one million or more shall submit responses to the department's request for information within one year after the request for information has been issued**. Individuals and organizations, including but not limited to, local veterans' service agencies staff and members of congressionally chartered veterans' service organizations may provide recommendations to a municipality for inclusion in the registry. In responding to the department's public request for information, a municipality shall identify [~~the memorial or~~] **any** memorials **and monuments** it desires to have included in the registry and submit any information required pursuant to subdivision two of this section to the department. **The registry shall be updated within sixty days of the department receiving information on any veteran's memorials and monuments with such information.**

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.