

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6559--B

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

March 6, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BENEDETTO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the veterans' services law, in relation to the establishing a veterans' bill of rights

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

1 Section 1. The veterans' services law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 29-e to read as follows:

3 § 29-e. Veterans' bill of rights. 1. The department shall establish,  
4 print, publish and distribute a veterans' bill of rights. Such bill of  
5 rights shall include the following or substantially similar text  
6 describing the existing rights of veterans under current law:

7 "VETERANS' BILL OF RIGHTS

8 You as a veteran have a right:

9 1. To apply for veterans' benefits for which you may be eligible;

10 2. To receive assistance from your local state veterans' service agen-  
11 cy and all offices of the New York state department of veterans'  
12 services;

13 3. To receive, upon request, an explanation of any services and bene-  
14 fits available under federal and New York state laws, rules and regu-  
15 lations;

16 4. To receive written notice and an explanation of the approval or  
17 denial of your application for benefits available through the New York  
18 state department of veterans' services;

19 5. To be treated with dignity and respect;

20 6. To appeal, subject to applicable law, an adverse determination or  
21 denial of your application for services or benefits available through  
22 the New York state department of veterans' services;

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

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1 7. To expect confidentiality to the extent provided by law;

2 8. To receive fair and equal treatment without regard to sex, race,  
3 religion, disability, ethnicity, gender identity or national origin; and

4 9. To receive, upon request, information relating to assistance  
5 provided to veterans in the state of New York including but not limited  
6 to: legal services; educational, employment, or housing opportunities;  
7 assistance with discharge upgrades and/or character of service determi-  
8 nations; tax benefits, including real property and personal taxes; and  
9 the veterans notation on New York state driver's license or non-driver  
10 identification cards."

11 2. The department shall conspicuously post the veterans' bill of  
12 rights on the department's website and shall make the veterans' bill of  
13 rights available to county and city veterans' service agencies.

14 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
15 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment,  
16 and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation  
17 of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and  
18 completed on or before such effective date.