STATE OF NEW YORK

9490

IN ASSEMBLY

January 7, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the veterans' services law, in relation to volunteer opportunities for veterans

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

Section 1. Subdivision 30-a of section 4 of the veterans' services law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2025 amending the veterans' services law relating to establishing voluntary opportunities for veterans, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 274-B and A. 8485, is amended to read as follows:

30-a. [~~(a)~~] To provide information on the department's website on volunteer opportunities available to veterans as defined in section one of this article, including but not limited to [~~working at the department, or~~], **(a)** a volunteer fire department**, after consultation with the office of fire prevention and control to identify the most effective ways to provide useful information about available volunteer opportunities,** or **(b) an** emergency services provider**, after consultation with the department of health to identify the most effective ways to provide useful information about available volunteer opportunities**.

[~~(b) The department shall post on their website under the employment portal any relevant application forms that a qualified veteran can use to apply for volunteer opportunities or to request additional information.~~]

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 15 of the veterans' services law, as amended by a chapter of the laws of 2025 amending the veterans' services law relating to establishing voluntary opportunities for veterans, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 274-B and A. 8485, is amended to read as follows:

1. A local veterans' service agency shall have power under the direction of the state veterans' service agency, and it shall be its duty to inform military and naval authorities of the United States and assist members of the uniformed services and veterans, who are residents of this state, and their families, in relation to (1) matters pertaining to

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

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educational training and retraining services and facilities, (2) health, medical and rehabilitation services and facilities, (3) provisions of federal, state and local laws and regulations affording special rights and privileges to members of the uniformed services and veterans and their families, (4) employment and re-employment services, (5) the process of submitting an application for a discharge upgrade to the discharge upgrade advisory board, (6) volunteer opportunities at [~~the department and~~] **local** volunteer fire departments or emergency services providers **to the extent such information is available**, and (7) other matters of similar, related or appropriate nature. The local veterans' service agency may also assist families of members of the reserve components of the uniformed services and the organized militia ordered into active duty to ensure that they are made aware of and are receiving all appropriate support available to them and are placed in contact with the agencies responsible for such support, including, but not limited to, the division of military and naval affairs and other state agencies responsible for providing such support. The local veterans' service agency also shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the state commissioner.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2025 amending the veterans' services law relating to establishing voluntary opportunities for veterans, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 274-B and A. 8485, takes effect.