STATE OF NEW YORK

9602

IN ASSEMBLY

January 21, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the veterans' services law, in relation to establishing a voluntary veterans' registry

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

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

§ 29-f. Voluntary veterans' registry. 1. The department shall establish a voluntary veterans' registry for the purpose of providing information on federal, state, and local governmental benefits, programs, and services available to veterans, and to link veterans with resources that can provide assistance.

2. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "State agency" means any department, board, bureau, division, commission, council, or committee within the executive branch, the state university of New York, the city university of New York, or any public authority under control of the executive branch of the state of New York.

(b) "Voluntary veterans' registry" or "registry" means the voluntary veterans' registry established pursuant to subdivision one of this section.

(c) "State veterans' service agency" means a state veterans' service agency established pursuant to section thirteen of this article.

(d) "Local veterans' service agency" means a local veterans' service agency established pursuant to section fourteen of this article.

3. Upon a veteran's registration with the registry, if permission is granted by such veteran, such veteran's information shall be shared with other state agencies, state veterans' service agencies, and local veterans' service agencies.

4. The department shall coordinate with other state agencies that have contact with veterans to establish a paper and online voluntary veterans' registry form to enable state agencies to assist the department in

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

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registering veterans who wish to be included in the registry. The department shall provide access to such paper and online voluntary veterans' registry form which shall contain a statement indicating the purpose of the registry and that filling out such form does not guarantee that a veteran is eligible for any benefits. Such form shall include but not be limited to the following information:

(a) name;

(b) address;

(c) gender;

(d) branch of military service;

(e) dates of military service;

(f) contact information, including phone or email;

(g) a signed statement, or for the online version, a box that is checked, indicating that the veteran grants permission to the department to store and share such veteran's information with the local veterans' service agencies' directors and with the other state agencies to ensure that the state provides such veteran assistance in receiving earned benefits; and

(h) any other information that the department may request.

5. Each state agency shall:

(a) utilize the paper or online voluntary veterans' registry form to develop a mechanism to identify veterans the agency serves for the purpose of expanding the registry;

(b) for each veteran who wishes to be included in the voluntary veterans' registry, the agency shall provide assistance in filling out the paper or online registry form for the department to add each such veteran to the registry; and

(c) submit a veteran's paper registry form to the department within sixty days from the date the veteran opts in to the voluntary veterans' registry.

6. Information collected under this section shall not be sold or used for commercial purposes or used for purposes not specified under this section. Information regarding a veteran's status shall be protected as personal confidential material and shall only be used to assist in providing information about benefits and entitlements for veterans residing in the state on the federal, state, and local government level. Data collected under this section may be used by the department to assist in formulating future policy initiatives and shared with the veterans' services commission pursuant to section three of this article in its role of assisting the commissioner in the formulation of policies affecting veterans.

7. On or before December thirty-first, two thousand twenty-seven, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall submit a report to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, and the temporary president of the senate. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, the total number of voluntary veterans' registry forms that were completed for the calendar year and a breakdown of registered veterans by gender and location.

§ 2. Subdivision 5 of section 3 of the veterans' services law is amended to read as follows:

5. The commission shall have power, and it shall be its duty, to assist the state commissioner in the formulation of policies affecting veterans, including using data collected pursuant to section twenty-nine-f of this article, and in the coordination of all operations of state agencies relating to veterans' services.

§ 3. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.