

5799--A

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

June 5, 2009

Introduced by Sen. FOLEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules -- recommitted to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the executive law and the public health law, in relation to providing certain benefits to veterans; and to amend the social services law and the correction law, in relation to requiring certain reports relating to veterans

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 Section 1. Section 353 of the executive law is amended by adding two
2 new subdivisions 20 and 21 to read as follows:
3 20. TO DEVELOP, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ANY
4 OTHER PRIVATE OR NOT-FOR-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS, A PROGRAM FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, DIAGNOSIS, COUNSELING AND TREATMENT OF VETERANS WHO SUFFER
5 FROM POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND BRAIN-RELATED INJURIES. SUCH
6 PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING VETERANS WHO MAY NEED
7 ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION AND OUTREACH TO MAKE VETERANS AWARE OF AVAILABLE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.
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10 21. TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH RELATED
11 BENEFITS AND SERVICES TO VETERANS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES.
12 S 2. The executive law is amended by adding two new sections 353-a and
13 353-b to read as follows:
14 S 353-A. REPORTING ON SUICIDE RATES OF VETERANS. THE DIVISION, BY AND
15 THROUGH THE STATE DIRECTOR OR HIS DULY AUTHORIZED OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE,
16 SHALL ESTABLISH PROGRAMS AND PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING RATES OF SUICIDE
17 AMONG VETERANS. SUCH REPORT SHALL STUDY THE INCIDENCE OF DEATHS
18 REPORTED AS SUICIDES AMONG VETERANS IN THIS STATE. IT SHALL BE
19 COMPLETED ANNUALLY AND SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGIS-

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

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1 LATURE. THE DIRECTOR SHALL DETERMINE WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SHALL
2 BE MADE A PART OF SUCH REPORT INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, NON-CLASSI-
3 FIED INFORMATION RELATING TO THE SERVICE OF SUCH VETERANS, PREVIOUS
4 MEDICAL HISTORY, LENGTH AND TYPE OF SERVICE AND ANY OTHER FACTORS WHICH
5 MAY BE RELEVANT TO THE INCIDENCE OF SUICIDE AMONG VETERANS.

6 S 353-B. REPORTING ON RATES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS. THE DIVI-
7 SION, BY AND THROUGH THE STATE DIRECTOR OR HIS DULY AUTHORIZED OFFICER
8 OR EMPLOYEE, SHALL ESTABLISH PROGRAMS AND PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
9 RATES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS. SUCH REPORT SHALL STUDY THE INCI-
10 DENCE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS IN THIS STATE. IT SHALL BE
11 COMPLETED ANNUALLY AND SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGIS-
12 LATURE. SUCH STUDY SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION GATHERED FROM LOCAL SOCIAL
13 SERVICES DISTRICTS AND SHELTERS RUN BY NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.
14 SUCH REPORT MAY ALSO INCLUDE ANY OTHER INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE
15 INCIDENCE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS AND ANY PROGRAMS CURRENTLY
16 SERVING SUCH POPULATION SPECIFICALLY.

17 S 3. Subdivision 1 of section 3803 of the public health law, as
18 amended by chapter 743 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 1. There is hereby created within the department the veterans health
21 care information program (referred to in this section as the "program"),
22 which shall provide information on health issues associated with mili-
23 tary duty, including but not limited to Agent Orange, Gulf War
24 Syndromes, toxic materials or harmful physical agents such as, depleted
25 uranium, and hepatitis C, AND SPECIFIC MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH ISSUES
26 INCLUDING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND BRAIN-RELATED INJURIES, for
27 veterans, their surviving spouses and health care providers.

28 S 4. Section 95 of the social services law is amended by adding a new
29 subdivision 12 to read as follows:

30 12. THE COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSIST-
31 ANCE SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE, NOT LATER THAN
32 DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST OF EACH YEAR, DETAILING THE NUMBER OF MILITARY
33 VETERANS AND FAMILIES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED FOR
34 ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO ARE IN
35 RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS OR ARE PARTICIPATING IN A FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
36 UNDER THIS SECTION.

37 S 5. Section 71 of the correction law is amended by adding a new
38 subdivision 8 to read as follows:

39 8. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL, WITHIN ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS AFTER THE
40 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION, AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, DETERMINE
41 AND REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE NUMBER OF INMATES CURRENTLY IN THE
42 CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING PERSONS SERVING SENTENCES IN ANY
43 LOCAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, WHO ARE VETERANS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
44 UNITED STATES. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL DEVELOP RULES AND REGULATIONS TO
45 PROVIDE FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF VETERANS UPON COMMITMENT OF SUCH
46 PERSONS TO THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT.

47 S 6. This act shall take effect immediately.