S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

7425

I N S E N A T E

May 14, 2012

Introduced by Sen. McDONALD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to providing certain benefits to veterans; and to amend the social services 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:

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 353-a to read as follows:

S 353-A. IDENTIFYING HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS. 1. LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES DISTRICTS AND SHELTERS RUN BY NON-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN EACH COUNTY, SHALL COLLECT INFORMATION IDENTIFYING VETERANS AND SPOUSES OF VETERANS WHO ARE IN A HOMELESS FACILITY. SUCH DATA SHALL BE COLLECTED QUARTERLY AND SUBMITTED TO THE DIVISION. THE DIVISION SHALL TRANSMIT SUCH INFORMATION TO STATE COUNSELORS FOR REVIEW AND POTENTIAL LINKAGE TO APPLICABLE BENEFITS. STATE COUNSELORS SHALL WORK WITH COUNTY AND CITY VETERANS' AGENCIES STAFF OR ANY ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICERS OF AN ORGANIZATION CHARTERED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND/OR RECOGNIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR CLAIM REPRESENTATION AS NECESSARY AND WHERE APPROPRIATE. SUCH INFORMATION SHALL BE PROTECTED AS PERSONAL CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION UNDER ARTICLE SIX-A OF THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW AGAINST DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL, AND SHALL BE USED ONLY TO ASSIST IN PROVIDING LINKAGE TO APPLICABLE BENEFITS AND ENTITLEMENTS UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE LAW.

2. THE DIVISION SHALL INCLUDE WITHIN THE ANNUAL REPORT AS REQUIRED BY SUBDIVISION ELEVEN OF SECTION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE OF THIS ARTICLE, AN ACCOUNTING OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES DISTRICTS AND SHELTERS RUN BY NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND THE SPECIFIC NUMBER OF VETERANS AND SPOUSES OF VETERANS LINKED TO APPLICABLE BENEFITS.

S 2. Section 95 of the social services law is amended by adding a new subdivision 12 to read as follows:

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

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12. THE OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE SHALL COLLECT DATA ON THE NUMBER OF VETERANS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION EIGHTY-FIVE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW, NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL DEPLOYED FOR ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE AS DEFINED IN SECTION ONE OF THE MILITARY LAW, AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY WHO ARE IN RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS OR WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN A FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UNDER THIS SECTION. SUCH DATA SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE, NO LATER THAN DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST OF EACH YEAR. SUCH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE BUT BE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: A BREAKDOWN OF VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS BY BRANCH, THE PERIOD OF SERVICE, AND IF APPLICABLE, THE TYPE OF DISCHARGE.

S 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law; provided, that any rules and regulations necessary for the timely implementation of this act on its effective date shall be promulgated on or before such date.