

2102--A

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 13, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. LAVINE, CASTELLI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs -- recommitted to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- 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 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 a new
2 subdivision 21 to read as follows:

3 21. TO DEVELOP, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH,
4 A PROGRAM FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, DIAGNOSIS, COUNSELING AND TREATMENT OF
5 VETERANS WHO SUFFER FROM POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, TRAUMATIC BRAIN
6 INJURY AND OTHER BRAIN-RELATED INJURIES. SUCH PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE
7 PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING VETERANS WHO MAY NEED ASSISTANCE AND INFORMA-
8 TION AND OUTREACH TO MAKE VETERANS AWARE OF AVAILABLE PROGRAMS AND
9 SERVICES.

10 S 2. Subdivision 1 of section 3803 of the public health law, as
11 amended by chapter 743 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as
12 follows:

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

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

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1 S 3. Subdivision 1 of section 29 of the correction law, as amended by
2 section 12 of subpart A of part C of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is
3 amended and a new subdivision 5 is added to read as follows:

4 1. The department shall continue to collect, maintain, and analyze
5 statistical and other information and data with respect to persons
6 subject to the jurisdiction of the department, including but not limited
7 to: (a) the number of such persons: placed in the custody of the depart-
8 ment, assigned to a specific department program, accorded community
9 supervision and declared delinquent, recommitted to a state correctional
10 institution upon revocation of community supervision, or discharged upon
11 maximum expiration of sentence; (b) the criminal history of such
12 persons; (c) the social, educational, and vocational circumstances of
13 any such persons; [and,] (d) the institutional and community supervision
14 programs and the behavior of such persons; AND, (E) THE MILITARY BACK-
15 GROUND AND CIRCUMSTANCES, IF SUCH PERSON SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES
16 ARMED FORCES. Provided, however, in the event any statistical informa-
17 tion on the ethnic background of the inmate population of a correctional
18 facility or facilities is collected by the department, such statistical
19 information shall contain, but not be limited to, the following ethnic
20 categories: (i) Caucasian; (ii) Asian; (iii) American Indian; (iv)
21 Afro-American/Black; and (v) Spanish speaking/Hispanic which category
22 shall include, but not be limited to, the following subcategories
23 consisting of: (1) Puerto Ricans; (2) Cubans; (3) Dominicans; and (4)
24 other Hispanic nationalities.

25 5. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE NUMBER OF
26 INMATES WHO ARE CURRENTLY SERVING SENTENCES IN STATE CORRECTIONAL FACIL-
27 ITIES AND ANY LOCAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE
28 UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES. SUCH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMIT-
29 ED TO THE FOLLOWING: A BREAKDOWN OF THE NUMBER OF INMATES BY BRANCH OF
30 SERVICE, TIME PERIOD OF MILITARY SERVICE AND THE TYPE OF DISCHARGE THE
31 INMATE RECEIVED UPON SEPARATION FROM THE MILITARY. SUCH REPORT SHALL BE
32 DONE ANNUALLY.

33 S 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
34 it shall have become a law; provided, that any rules and regulations
35 necessary for the timely implementation of this act on its effective
36 date shall be promulgated on or before such date.