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

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I N A S S E M B L Y

May 5, 2014

Introduced by M. of A. BENEDETTO, CUSICK, SCHIMEL, MILLER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to veteran affairs; and the election law, in relation to statewide election application forms

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

Section 1. Section 353 of the executive law is amended by adding two new subdivisions 22 and 23 to read as follows:

22. TO PROCESS ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK BOARD OF ELECTIONS PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (XIII) OF PARAGRAPH (K) OF SUBDIVISION FIVE OF SECTION 5-210 OF THE ELECTION LAW INDICATING VETERAN STATUS. SUCH PROCESSING SHALL OCCUR BY TRANSMITTING SUCH INFORMATION TO STATE COUNSELORS FOR REVIEW AND POTENTIAL LINKAGE TO APPLICABLE BENEFITS. STATE COUNSELORS SHALL WORK WITH COUNTY COUNSELORS 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.

23. TO INCLUDE WITHIN THE ANNUAL REPORT, AS REQUIRED BY SUBDIVISION ELEVEN OF THIS SECTION, AN ACCOUNTING OF THE NUMBER OF FORMS RECEIVED FROM VETERANS LINKED TO APPLICABLE BENEFITS. SUCH REPORT SHALL EVALUATE THE AVERAGE TIME TAKEN BY THE DIVISION BETWEEN RECEIPT OF SUCH INFORMATION, TRANSMISSION TO VETERANS COUNSELORS AND LINKAGE TO AVAILABLE BENEFITS. SUCH REPORT SHALL ALSO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS AS NECESSARY.

S 2. Paragraph (k) of subdivision 5 of section 5-210 of the election law is amended by adding a new subparagraph (xiii) to read as follows:

(XIII) A SPACE FOR THE APPLICANT TO INDICATE WHETHER OR NOT THE VOTER HAS SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, THE TERM UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SHALL INCLUDE PARTICIPATION IN THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THE ARMY, NAVY, MARINE CORPS, AIR FORCE, COAST GUARD OR RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY. INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS VETERANS SHALL BE ADVISED THAT THE DIVISION OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND LOCAL VETERANS' SERVICE AGENCIES, ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION THREE

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

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HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW, PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS REGARDING BENEFITS UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE LAW.

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