

7322

I N   S E N A T E

April 15, 2016

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Introduced by Sen. SANDERS -- 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 public health law, in relation to providing a help line/crisis line to assist veterans

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

1     Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of section 3803 of the  
2     public health law, as amended by chapter 743 of the laws of 2006, is  
3     amended to read as follows:  
4     (b) establishment of a toll-free telephone hotline to provide informa-  
5     tion regarding health care providers and treatment centers with exper-  
6     tise in illnesses associated with military duty AND A TOLL-FREE TELE-  
7     PHONE NUMBER FOR USE AS (I) A CLEARINGHOUSE BY VETERANS, ACTIVE MEMBERS  
8     OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THIS STATE, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL GUARD, AND  
9     THEIR FAMILIES TO OBTAIN, IN RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUESTS ABOUT BENEFITS  
10    OR SERVICES THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE TO SUCH VETERANS, MEMBERS OR THEIR  
11    FAMILIES, REFERRALS TO ENTITIES THAT PROVIDE SUCH BENEFITS OR SERVICES,  
12    AND (II) A CRISIS LINE TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM VETER-  
13    ANS THAT IS MODELED ON THE FEDERAL VETERANS' CRISIS LINE. THE TOLL-FREE  
14    TELEPHONE NUMBER SHALL BE STAFFED BY EMPLOYEES OF OR TRAINED VOLUNTEERS  
15    WORKING AT THE DIVISION OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS ON WEEKDAYS DURING REGULAR  
16    BUSINESS HOURS, AND ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS FROM NINE O'CLOCK A.M. TO  
17    FIVE O'CLOCK P.M.; and  
18    S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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