STATE OF NEW YORK

4524

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 16, 2017

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:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of section 3803 of the public health law, as amended by chapter 743 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

(b) establishment of a toll-free telephone hotline to provide information regarding health care providers and treatment centers with expertise in illnesses associated with military duty **and a toll-free telephone number for use as (i) a clearinghouse by veterans, active members of the armed forces in this state, including the national guard, and their families to obtain, in response to their requests about benefits or services that may be available to such veterans, members or their families, referrals to entities that provide such benefits or services, and (ii) a crisis line to respond to requests for assistance from veterans that is modeled on the federal veterans' crisis line. The toll-free telephone number shall be staffed by employees of or trained volunteers working at the division of veterans' affairs on weekdays during regular business hours, and on weekends and holidays from nine o'clock a.m. to five o'clock p.m.**; and

§ 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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