STATE OF NEW YORK

3415

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 27, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. DenDEKKER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing the veterans home and community based care pilot program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby created in the state division of veterans' affairs a pilot program to test the benefit, quality, cost-effectiveness and increased access to services of a coordinated, interdisciplinary plan of home and community based services for veterans. The program shall seek through an enhanced integrated, interdisciplinary model to more fully meet the comprehensive health, psychosocial and related needs of veterans, promote health and wellness, support quality of life and community engagement.

§ 2. The program shall be structured as a collaborative model between home care agencies, physicians and other partners, addressing the comprehensive, interdisciplinary needs of veterans through home and community based services and the engagement of partners throughout the health, psychosocial, vocational and social service continuum. The program shall provide an individualized plan for participating veterans, which considers the unique needs and circumstances of each veteran, including factors related to health, age, military service and other determining characteristics. Participation in the program by agencies, physicians, other program partners and veterans shall be voluntary.

§ 3. (a) The state director of the division of veterans' affairs shall implement the pilot program through eligible home care agencies, collaborating physicians and other partners with experience in veterans care.

(b) Eligible home care agencies include certified home health agencies, licensed home care services agencies and long term home health care programs.

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

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(c) Such state director shall issue a request for applications to home care agencies wishing to apply, in conjunction with collaborating physicians and partners to be considered for the pilot program. Such state director shall convene an advisory group to assist in establishing, evaluating the results of and recommending further action pursuant to the pilot program; the advisory group shall include representatives of the state department of health, a statewide association representative of home health care services, a statewide association representative of physicians, veterans organizations, the New York State Health Foundation, and other parties with expertise in veterans affairs which the director determines to be appropriate. Such state director shall evaluate and select applicants for participation based on program and scoring criteria determined by the director in consultation with the advisory group.

§ 4. The state director of the division of veterans' affairs is authorized to seek federal funding to supplement any state funds available to support the pilot program, as well as to seek and receive philanthropic funds for the program, for deposit into the veterans home care pilot program fund established under section 99-aa of the state finance law. Such state director is further authorized to seek federal waivers or other federal authority for integrating through the pilot program the benefits available to veterans for pilot program services through the United States department of veterans affairs, Medicare, Medicaid and/or any other federal benefit program available for such services to veterans.

§ 5. The state division of veterans' affairs shall work with participating providers to collect and analyze experiential information and data from the pilot program for review and recommendation for continuation, modification, expansion and/or other policy or program improvement for veterans.

§ 6. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-aa to read as follows:

§ 99-aa. Veterans home care pilot program fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the state comptroller and commissioner of taxation and finance a special fund to be known as the "veterans home care pilot program fund".

2. Such fund shall consist of all moneys appropriated for the purpose of such fund and any grant, gift, bequest or other funds deposited into such fund for purposes of the veteran home care pilot program established within the state division of veterans' affairs.

3. Monies of the fund shall be made available to the state director of the division of veterans' affairs for the purpose of providing grants and for the expenses of the division pursuant to the veterans home care pilot program.

4. The monies of the fund shall be paid out on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the state director of the division of veterans' affairs, or by an officer or employee of the division designated by such state director.

§ 7. This act shall take effect immediately.