STATE OF NEW YORK

5859--B

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 3, 2017

Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to enacting the "behavioral health services for veterans act"

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "behavioral health services for veterans act".

§ 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 368-a to read as follows:

§ 368-a. Behavioral health services for veterans advisory board. 1. There is hereby established within the division, a behavioral health services for veterans advisory board. Such board shall consist of nine members, three of whom shall be appointed by the governor, two of whom shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate, two of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly, one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly. Such members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Vacancies on the board shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment. Members of the board shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

2. The behavioral health services for veterans advisory board shall study and analyze both the adequacy of existing and the need for new

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

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behavioral health services for veterans. In providing such analysis, the board shall work in cooperation with the division, the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services, the department of health and the department of mental hygiene. The board shall report the findings of such study to the governor and the legislature along with recommendations it deems necessary for expanded and improved behavioral health services on or before October first, two thousand nineteen.

§ 3. This act shall take effect April 1, 2019; provided that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such date.