

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1026--A

Cal. No. 51

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 10, 2019

Introduced by Sens. RIVERA, KENNEDY, SANDERS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law and the executive law, in relation to enabling veterans and reservists to receive benefit information upon applying for or renewing a driver's license

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

Section 1. Section 494 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 3 to read as follows:

3. The commissioner, in consultation with the director of the division of veterans' services, is directed to establish a process by which the department shall refer driver's license and non-driver identification card applicants requesting and obtaining a notation upon such license or non-driver identification card that he or she is a veteran of the United States armed forces pursuant to subdivision three of section four hundred ninety of this article or subdivision one of section five hundred two of this chapter, upon his or her request, to the division of veterans' services, consistent with the provisions of section three hundred fifty-four-a of the executive law. Such process shall ensure a space is provided for applicant to demonstrate his or her intent to share his or her application information with the division of veterans' services, to enable the division of veterans' services to provide benefits information to applicant. Such process shall also be exempt from subdivision two of section eighty-seven of the public officers law.

§ 2. Section 508 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 6 to read as follows:

6. The commissioner, in consultation with the director of the division of veterans' services, is directed to establish a process by which the

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

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1 department shall refer driver's license and non-driver identification  
2 card applicants requesting and obtaining a notation upon such license or  
3 non-driver identification card that he or she is a veteran of the United  
4 States armed forces pursuant to subdivision three of section four  
5 hundred ninety of this chapter or subdivision one of section five  
6 hundred two of this article, upon his or her request, to the division of  
7 veterans' services, consistent with the provisions of section three  
8 hundred fifty-four-a of the executive law. Such process shall ensure a  
9 space is provided for applicant to demonstrate his or her intent to  
10 share his or her application information with the division of veterans'  
11 services, to enable the division of veterans' services to provide bene-  
12 fits information to applicant. Such process shall also be exempt from  
13 subdivision two of section eighty-seven of the public officers law.

14 § 3. Section 353 of the executive law is amended by adding a new  
15 subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

16 1-a. To establish, direct, and supervise a veterans' public engagement  
17 program unit to contact veterans and potential beneficiaries of veterans  
18 benefits, with the goal of obtaining all the benefits a veteran or the  
19 veteran's claimant earned through their service to our country.

20 § 4. Section 354-a of the executive law, as amended by section 8 of  
21 part AA of chapter 56 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as  
22 follows:

23 § 354-a. Information on status of veterans receiving assistance.  
24 Departments, divisions, bureaus, boards, commissions and agencies of the  
25 state and political subdivisions thereof, which provide assistance,  
26 treatment, counseling, care, supervision or custody in service areas  
27 involving health, mental health, family services, criminal justice or  
28 employment, including but not limited to the office of alcoholism and  
29 substance abuse services, office of mental health, office of probation  
30 and correctional alternatives, office of children and family services,  
31 office of temporary and disability assistance, department of health,  
32 department of labor, local workforce investment boards, office for  
33 people with developmental disabilities, and department of corrections  
34 and community supervision, shall request assisted persons to provide  
35 information with regard to their veteran status and military experi-  
36 ences. Individuals identifying themselves as veterans, including indi-  
37 viduals requesting and obtaining a veterans notation on their driver's  
38 license or non-driver identification card pursuant to sections four  
39 hundred ninety and five hundred two of the vehicle and traffic law,  
40 shall be advised that the division of veterans' services and local  
41 veterans' service agencies established pursuant to section three hundred  
42 fifty-seven of this article provide assistance to veterans regarding  
43 benefits under federal and state law. Information regarding veterans  
44 status and military service provided by assisted persons solely to  
45 implement this section shall be disclosed to the New York state division  
46 of veterans' services for use in such division's veterans' public  
47 engagement program established pursuant to section three hundred fifty-  
48 three of this article and shall be protected as personal confidential  
49 information under article six-A of the public officers law against  
50 disclosure of confidential material, and used only to assist in the  
51 diagnosis, treatment, assessment and handling of the veteran's problems  
52 within the agency requesting such information and in referring the  
53 veteran to the division of veterans' services for information and  
54 assistance with regard to benefits and entitlements under federal and  
55 state law.

1     § 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
2 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-  
3 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-  
4 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and  
5 completed on or before such effective date.