STATE OF NEW YORK

6467

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

June 12, 2019

Introduced by Sen. BROOKS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to directing the division of veterans' services to maintain a discharge upgrade advisory board program

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

Section 1. Section 353 of the executive law is amended by adding a new subdivision 24 to read as follows:

24. To maintain a discharge upgrade advisory board program within the division to provide written non-binding advisory opinions to veterans of the state of New York appealing their character of discharge from the discharge review board or the board for corrections of military records for their branch of service on the federal level. Individuals may submit an application with evidence, including all relevant documents, which shall be reviewed by the discharge upgrade advisory board program in a timely manner. If such board finds the veteran's application for a discharge upgrade is meritorious, then the board will provide the veteran with a written opinion advocating for the discharge review board or board for corrections of military or naval records to grant that veteran's appeal. The division shall post information on the discharge upgrade advisory board program on its official webpage. The annual report required by subdivision eleven of this section shall contain information including, but not limited to, the number of cases reviewed, and the number of cases where a veteran's application was found to be meritorious.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law.

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

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