STATE OF NEW YORK

3174

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 28, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. ORTIZ, GUNTHER, COLTON, WEPRIN, COOK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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 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 recommenda-

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

LBD07232-01-9

tions it deems necessary for expanded and improved behavioral health services on or before October first, two thousand twenty.

§ 3. This act shall take effect April 1, 2020. 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.