STATE OF NEW YORK

3920

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 29, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. DINOWITZ, BRONSON, CYMBROWITZ, BENEDETTO, CUSICK, GUNTHER, GOTTFRIED, PICHARDO, BARRON, COOK, GALEF, COLTON, HUNTER, PERRY, BUTTENSCHON, BYRNE, NORRIS, CRUZ, BARRETT, GRIFFIN -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. SIMON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

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 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 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 chapter or subdivision one of section five hundred two of this article, 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.

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

§ 354-a. Information on status of veterans receiving assistance. Departments, divisions, bureaus, boards, commissions and agencies of the state and political subdivisions thereof, which provide assistance, treatment, counseling, care, supervision or custody in service areas involving health, mental health, family services, criminal justice or employment, including but not limited to the office of [~~alcoholism and~~

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

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~~substance abuse services~~] addiction services and supports, office of mental health, office of probation and correctional alternatives, office of children and family services, office of temporary and disability assistance, department of health, department of labor, local workforce investment boards, office for people with developmental disabilities, and department of corrections and community supervision, shall request assisted persons to provide information with regard to their veteran status and military experiences. Individuals identifying themselves as veterans, including individuals requesting and obtaining a veterans notation on their driver's license or non-driver identification card pursuant to sections four hundred ninety and five hundred two of the vehicle and traffic law, shall be advised that the division of veterans' services and local veterans' service agencies established pursuant to section three hundred fifty-seven of this article provide assistance to veterans regarding benefits under federal and state law. Information regarding veterans status and military service provided by assisted persons solely to implement this section shall be protected as personal confidential information under article six-A of the public officers law against disclosure of confidential material, and used only to assist in the diagnosis, treatment, assessment and handling of the veteran's problems within the agency requesting such information and in referring the veteran to the division of veterans' services for information and assistance with regard to benefits and entitlements under federal and state law.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. 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 effective date.