STATE OF NEW YORK

180--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sen. KAPLAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs -- 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 directing the veterans service commission to submit a report relating to coordinated services for veterans with service-connected disabilities to the veterans' services director

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby recognizes that New York state's veterans, particularly those who suffered from service-connected disabilities, have unique needs as a result of the sacrifices they made during their military service. It is also hereby acknowledged by the legislature that due to the complexity of their needs, such individuals require accessible, coordinated, and specialized services within their communities from multiple state and local agencies. The legislature finds that there may be a need for a statewide comprehensive program to coordinate such services.

§ 2. Section 352 of the executive law is amended by adding a new subdivision 6 to read as follows:

6. The commission, in consultation with the office of the chief disability officer by April first, two thousand twenty-four, shall submit a report to the director reviewing the services provided to veterans with service-connected disabilities by state and local veterans' service agencies. The report shall identify any deficiencies in the availability, accessibility and delivery of such services.

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

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(a) The services reviewed in the report shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) education and vocation related services, including training and retraining services;

(ii) healthcare services, including medical, mental, dental, rehabilitation and counseling services;

(iii) career, employment and re-employment services;

(iv) housing related services;

(v) transportation services;

(vi) long term care services;

(vii) personal care services;

(viii) adult day healthcare services;

(ix) family outreach and family caregiver services; and

(x) legal services, including veterans' benefits claims assistance. The report shall provide any findings and recommendations as to how these services may be improved, or better coordinated and how information pertaining to such services can be better communicated to veterans. To the extent feasible, the report shall also identify any needs of veterans with service-connected disabilities that are unmet by existing services and include recommendations as to how they may be addressed.

(b) The report shall also include findings and recommendations on the necessity and feasibility of implementing a comprehensive statewide program of coordinated service for veterans with service-connected disabilities. Once completed, the commission shall publish such report on the division's website and provide for a thirty-day public comment period prior to such report being delivered to the director. A synopsis of the comments shall be included in the report that is submitted.

Upon the receipt of the report the state director shall submit a copy of the report to the governor, temporary president of the senate and speaker of the assembly.

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