

STATE OF NEW YORK

6452

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 29, 2021

Introduced by Sen. REICHLIN-MELNICK -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed 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 infor-
mation upon applying for or renewing a driver's license

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

1 Section 1. Section 508 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by
2 adding a new subdivision 6 to read as follows:

3 6. The commissioner, in consultation with the director of the division
4 of veterans' services, is directed to establish a process by which the
5 department shall refer driver's license and non-driver identification
6 card applicants requesting and obtaining a notation upon such license or
7 non-driver identification card that he or she is a veteran of the United
8 States armed forces pursuant to subdivision three of section four
9 hundred ninety of this chapter or subdivision one of section five
10 hundred two of this article, upon his or her request, to the division of
11 veterans' services, consistent with the provisions of section three
12 hundred fifty-four-a of the executive law.

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

16 § 354-a. Information on status of veterans receiving assistance.
17 Departments, divisions, bureaus, boards, commissions and agencies of the
18 state and political subdivisions thereof, which provide assistance,
19 treatment, counseling, care, supervision or custody in service areas
20 involving health, mental health, family services, criminal justice or
21 employment, including but not limited to the office of [~~alcoholism and~~
22 ~~substance abuse services~~] addiction services and supports, office of
23 mental health, office of probation and correctional alternatives, office
24 of children and family services, office of temporary and disability

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

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1 assistance, department of health, department of labor, local workforce
2 investment boards, office for people with developmental disabilities,
3 and department of corrections and community supervision, shall request
4 assisted persons to provide information with regard to their veteran
5 status and military experiences. Individuals identifying themselves as
6 veterans, including individuals requesting and obtaining a veterans
7 notation on their driver's license or non-driver identification card
8 pursuant to sections four hundred ninety and five hundred two of the
9 vehicle and traffic law, shall be advised that the division of veterans'
10 services and local veterans' service agencies established pursuant to
11 section three hundred fifty-seven of this article provide assistance to
12 veterans regarding benefits under federal and state law. Information
13 regarding veterans status and military service provided by assisted
14 persons solely to implement this section shall be protected as personal
15 confidential information under article six-A of the public officers law
16 against disclosure of confidential material, and used only to assist in
17 the diagnosis, treatment, assessment and handling of the veteran's prob-
18 lems within the agency requesting such information and in referring the
19 veteran to the division of veterans' services for information and
20 assistance with regard to benefits and entitlements under federal and
21 state law.

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