

# STATE OF NEW YORK

---

3237--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 22, 2021

---

Introduced by M. of A. HUNTER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the county law and the executive law, in relation to the reporting of a veteran's suicide

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

1 Section 1. Section 677 of the county law is amended by adding a new  
2 subdivision 10 to read as follows:

3 10. The coroner, coroner's physician or medical examiner shall report  
4 to the division of veterans' services, in a form, and time frame devel-  
5 oped by such division in a manner that is protective of privacy and  
6 contains aggregate, rather than individual data to the extent practica-  
7 ble, any death which appears to be a suicide by a person who, to the  
8 knowledge of the coroner, coroner's physician or medical examiner, is a  
9 veteran.

10 § 2. Section 353 of the executive law is amended by adding a new  
11 subdivision 26 to read as follows:

12 26. (a) To develop a form by which a coroner, coroner's physician or  
13 medical examiner, pursuant to section six hundred seventy-seven of the  
14 county law, shall report to the division any death which appears to be a  
15 suicide by a person who, to the knowledge of the coroner, coroner's  
16 physician or medical examiner, is a veteran. This form shall at a mini-  
17 mum: (i) ensure compliance with the strictest privacy protections and  
18 encourage data aggregation to the extent feasible; (ii) provide the  
19 address to which the form is to be mailed or submitted electronically;  
20 and (iii) include the county of residence and the branch of service of  
21 deceased veterans during the reporting period.

22 (b) The division shall: (i) forward completed forms to the office of  
23 mental hygiene pursuant to subdivision (g) of section 7.07 of the mental

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

LBD03672-03-1

1 hygiene law in a timely manner; and (ii) compile such information for  
2 inclusion in the annual report pursuant to this section.

3 § 3. Section 353 of the executive law is amended by adding a new  
4 subdivision 6-b to read as follows:

5 6-b. To prepare and submit a report in consultation with the depart-  
6 ment of health and the department of mental hygiene including the  
7 following information to the extent it is reasonably accessible: (a) the  
8 number of veterans who died by suicide; (b) trends of veterans suicide  
9 rates over the last five years, including details by period of military  
10 service; and (c) a comparison of veterans suicide rates by county,  
11 statewide and nationwide. Such report shall be delivered to the governor  
12 and legislature no later than June thirteenth, two thousand twenty-four  
13 and every three years thereafter. Such report shall also be made avail-  
14 able on the division's website.

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