

# 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.

LBD05234-02-1

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

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