

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8715

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 11, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. HUNTER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT to amend the county law, the public health law and the executive law, in relation to reporting veteran suicide

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

Section 1. Subdivision 10 of section 677 of the county law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2021 amending the county law and the executive law relating to the reporting of a veteran's suicide, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 2036-B and A. 3237-A, is amended to read as follows:

10. (a) The coroner, coroner's physician or medical examiner shall report to the division of veterans' services, in a form, and time frame developed by ~~[such division]~~ the department of health in a manner that is protective of privacy and contains aggregate, rather than individual data to the extent practicable, any death which appears to be caused by suicide by a person who, to the knowledge of the coroner, coroner's physician or medical examiner, is a veteran.

(b) For the purposes of this subdivision, veteran means a person who served in the United States army, navy, air force, space force, marine corps, coast guard, and/or reserves thereof, and/or in the army national guard, air national guard, New York guard and/or New York naval militia, and/or who served as a member of the commissioned corps of the national oceanic and atmospheric administration or the United States public health service regardless of discharge status.

§ 1-a. Subdivision 1 of section 201 of the public health law is amended by adding a new paragraph (y) to read as follows:

(y) To develop a form by which a coroner, coroner's physician or medical examiner, pursuant to section six hundred seventy-seven of the county law, shall report to the division of veterans' services any death which appears to be caused by suicide by a person who, to the knowledge of the coroner, coroner's physician or medical examiner, is a veteran. This form shall at a minimum: (i) ensure compliance with the strictest privacy protections and encourage data aggregation to the extent feasi-

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

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1 ble; (ii) provide the address to which the form is to be mailed or  
2 submitted electronically; and (iii) include the county of residence and  
3 the branch of service of deceased veterans during the reporting period.

4 § 2. Subdivision 26 of section 353 of the executive law, as added by a  
5 chapter of the laws of 2021 amending the county law and the executive  
6 law relating to the reporting of a veteran's suicide, as proposed in  
7 legislative bills numbers S. 2036-B and A. 3237-A, is amended to read as  
8 follows:

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

19 ~~(b)]~~ The division shall: (i) forward completed forms received from a  
20 coroner, coroner's physician or medical examiner pursuant to section six  
21 hundred seventy-seven of the county law to the office of mental hygiene  
22 pursuant to subdivision (g) of section 7.07 of the mental hygiene law in  
23 a timely manner; and (ii) compile such information for inclusion in the  
24 annual report pursuant to this section.

25 § 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same  
26 manner as a chapter of the laws of 2021, amending the county law and the  
27 executive law relating to the reporting of a veteran's suicide, as  
28 proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 2036-B and A. 3237-A , takes  
29 effect.