STATE OF NEW YORK

2036--B

Cal. No. 1101

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 19, 2021

Introduced by Sens. BROOKS, HELMING, BORRELLO, HINCHEY, JORDAN, RATH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, amended on second report, ordered to a third reading, and to be reprinted as amended, retaining its place in the order of third reading

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:

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

10. 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 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 a suicide by a person who, to the knowledge of the coroner, coroner's physician or medical examiner, is a veteran.

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

26. (a) 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 any death which appears to be a 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 feasible; (ii) provide the address to which the form is to be mailed or submitted electronically;

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

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and (iii) include the county of residence and the branch of service of deceased veterans during the reporting period.

(b) The division shall: (i) forward completed forms to the office of mental hygiene pursuant to subdivision (g) of section 7.07 of the mental hygiene law in a timely manner; and (ii) compile such information for inclusion in the annual report pursuant to this section.

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

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

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.