

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8234

## IN SENATE

February 7, 2022

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

AN ACT to amend the private housing finance law, in relation to disabled veteran access to home for heroes contracts

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

1 Section 1. The private housing finance law is amended by adding a new  
2 article 32 to read as follows:

### ARTICLE XXXII

#### NEW YORK ACCESS TO HOME FOR HEROES PROGRAM

5 Section 1285. Statement of legislative findings and purpose.

6 1286. Definitions.

7 1287. Access to home for heroes contracts.

8 § 1285. Statement of legislative findings and purpose. The legislature  
9 hereby finds and declares that many disabled veterans in New York state  
10 face a significant impediment to accessible and affordable housing as a  
11 result of service related injuries, age or health related disabilities.  
12 These men and women have served our country and state with honor and  
13 distinction and deserve to achieve maximum independence, social inter-  
14 action and community integration. Providing financial assistance with  
15 the cost of adapting the dwelling units of our disabled veterans, is  
16 fundamental to providing for the promise of living safely, comfortably  
17 and productively in the most integrated setting of their choice.

18 § 1286. Definitions. As used in this article:

19 1. "Corporation" shall mean the housing trust fund corporation estab-  
20 lished in section forty-five-a of this chapter.

21 2. "Eligible applicant" shall mean a city, town, village or not-for-  
22 profit corporation in existence for a period of one or more years prior  
23 to application, which is, or will be at the time of award, incorporated  
24 under the not-for-profit corporation law and has substantial experience  
25 in adapting or retrofitting homes for persons with disabilities.

26 3. "Veteran" shall mean a resident of this state who (a) has served on  
27 active duty in the United States army, navy, marine corps, air force or

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

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1 coast guard or (b) has served on active duty or ordered to active duty  
2 as defined in 10 USC 101 (d)(1) as a member of the national guard or  
3 other reserve component of the armed forces of the United States or (c)  
4 has served on active duty or ordered to active duty for the state, as a  
5 member of the state organized militia as defined in subdivision nine of  
6 section one of the military law and has been released from such service  
7 documented by an honorable or general discharge.

8 4. "Disabled veteran" shall mean a veteran who is certified by the  
9 United States Department of Veterans Affairs documented by a Letter of  
10 Certification or the United States Department of Defense certificate of  
11 release or discharge from active duty, including but limited to a DD-214  
12 form or an honorable certificate/report of casualty.

13 5. "Access to home for heroes programs" or "programs" shall mean a  
14 series of activities by an eligible applicant to administer funds to  
15 provide grants to homeowners and renters and to oversee the adaptation  
16 or retrofitting of eligible properties.

17 6. "Eligible property" shall mean a housing unit that is the primary  
18 residence of a disabled veteran and a total household income that does  
19 not exceed one hundred and twenty percent of area median income. A prop-  
20 erty shall not be considered an eligible property if the owner of the  
21 property is otherwise obligated by federal, state or local law to  
22 provide the improvements funded under this article.

23 § 1287. Access to home for heroes contracts. 1. Within the limit of  
24 funds available in the access to home for heroes program, the corpo-  
25 ration is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with eligible appli-  
26 cants to provide financial assistance for the actual costs of an access  
27 to home for heroes program. The financial assistance shall be in the  
28 form of grants. No more than fifty percent of the total amount awarded  
29 pursuant to this article in any fiscal year shall be allocated to access  
30 to home programs located within any single municipality.

31 2. The total payment pursuant to any one contract shall not exceed  
32 five hundred thousand dollars and the contract shall provide for  
33 completion of the program within a reasonable period, as specified ther-  
34 ein, which shall not in any event exceed three years from its commence-  
35 ment. Upon request, the corporation may extend the term of the contract  
36 for up to two additional one year periods for good cause shown by the  
37 eligible applicant.

38 3. The corporation may authorize the eligible applicant to spend up to  
39 seven and one-half percent of the contract amount for approved adminis-  
40 trative costs associated with administering the program.

41 4. The corporation shall require that, in order to receive funds  
42 pursuant to this article, the eligible applicant shall submit a plan  
43 which shall include, but not be limited to, program feasibility, impact  
44 on the community, budget for expenditure of program funds, a schedule  
45 for completion of the program, affirmative action and minority business  
46 participation.

47 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.