

STATE OF NEW YORK

8491

IN SENATE

March 7, 2022

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to establishing discount programs for veterans

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

1 Section 1. The public service law is amended by adding a new section
2 66-s to read as follows:

3 § 66-s. Utility discount program. 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other
4 provision of law, the commission is authorized and directed to require a
5 gas corporation, electric corporation or municipality to establish a
6 discount program for veterans no later than ninety days after the effec-
7 tive date of this section. Such program shall offer a yearly benefit to
8 veterans in the form of a ten percent discount on utility bills. The
9 fiscal impact of such program shall not be borne by customers and shall
10 not be added to bills rendered by a gas corporation, electric corpo-
11 ration or municipality to customers.

12 (b) A gas corporation, electric corporation or municipality which
13 offers such discount program shall conspicuously advertise the avail-
14 ability and amount of such discount on the website of such gas corpo-
15 ration, electric corporation or municipality. The availability and
16 amount of such discount shall also be conspicuously advertised on the
17 accessibility page of the website of such gas corporation, electric
18 corporation or municipality.

19 2. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" shall mean a resident
20 of the state who served in and who received any honorable or general
21 discharge from the United States army, navy, air force, marine corps,
22 coast guard and/or the reserves thereof, and/or the army national guard,
23 air national guard, New York guard or New York naval militia.

24 § 2. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 89-q to
25 read as follows:

26 § 89-q. Water discount program. 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other
27 provision of law, the commission is authorized and directed to require

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

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1 waterworks corporations and municipal water systems to establish a
2 discount program for veterans no later than ninety days after the effec-
3 tive date of this section. Such program shall offer a yearly benefit to
4 veterans in the form of a ten percent discount on water utility bills.
5 The fiscal impact of such program shall not be borne by customers and
6 shall not be added to bills rendered by a waterworks corporation or
7 municipal water system to customers.

8 (b) A waterworks corporation or municipal water system which offers
9 such discount program shall conspicuously advertise the availability and
10 amount of such discount on the website of such waterworks corporation or
11 municipal water system. The availability and amount of such discount
12 shall also be conspicuously advertised on the accessibility page of the
13 website of such waterworks corporation or municipal water system.

14 2. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" shall mean a resident
15 of the state who served in and who received any honorable or general
16 discharge from the United States army, navy, air force, marine corps,
17 coast guard and/or the reserves thereof, and/or the army national guard,
18 air national guard, New York guard or New York naval militia.

19 § 3. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 91-b to
20 read as follows:

21 § 91-b. Telephone discount program. 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other
22 provision of law, the commission is authorized and directed to require a
23 telephone corporation to establish a discount program for veterans no
24 later than ninety days after the effective date of this section. Such
25 program shall offer a yearly benefit to veterans in the form of a ten
26 percent discount on telephone bills. The fiscal impact of such program
27 shall not be borne by customers and shall not be added to bills rendered
28 by a telephone corporation to customers.

29 (b) A telephone corporation which offers such discount program shall
30 conspicuously advertise the availability and amount of such discount on
31 the website of such telephone corporation. The availability and amount
32 of such discount shall also be conspicuously advertised on the accessi-
33 bility page of the website of such telephone corporation.

34 2. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" shall mean a resident
35 of the state who served in and who received any honorable or general
36 discharge from the United States army, navy, air force, marine corps,
37 coast guard and/or the reserves thereof, and/or the army national guard,
38 air national guard, New York guard or New York naval militia.

39 § 4. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 224-d
40 to read as follows:

41 § 224-d. Cable discount program. 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other
42 provision of law, the commission is authorized and directed to require a
43 telephone corporation, as defined in subdivision seventeen of section
44 two of this chapter, and a cable television company, as defined in
45 section two hundred twelve of this article, that provides cable service
46 to customers in New York, to establish a discount program for veterans
47 no later than ninety days after the effective date of this section. Such
48 program shall offer a yearly benefit to veterans in the form of a ten
49 percent discount on cable bills. The fiscal impact of such program shall
50 not be borne by customers and shall not be added to bills rendered by a
51 telephone corporation or cable television company to customers.

52 (b) A telephone corporation or cable television company which offers
53 such discount program shall conspicuously advertise the availability and
54 amount of such discount on the website of such telephone corporation or
55 cable television company. The availability and amount of such discount

1 shall also be conspicuously advertised on the accessibility page of the
2 website of such telephone corporation or cable television company.

3 2. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" shall mean a resident
4 of the state who served in and who received any honorable or general
5 discharge from the United States army, navy, air force, marine corps,
6 coast guard and/or the reserves thereof, and/or the army national guard,
7 air national guard, New York guard or New York naval militia.

8 § 5. This act shall take effect immediately.