

STATE OF NEW YORK

8491--A

Cal. No. 922

IN SENATE

March 7, 2022

Introduced by Sens. PARKER, GAUGHRAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

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:

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

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

(b) A gas corporation, electric corporation or municipality which offers such discount program shall conspicuously advertise the availability and amount of such discount on the website of such gas corporation, electric corporation or municipality. The availability and amount of such discount shall also be conspicuously advertised on the accessibility page of the website of such gas corporation, electric corporation or municipality.

2. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" shall mean a resident of the state (a) is the primary named utility service accountholder; (b) who has had a total household income of less than fifty thousand dollars for the most recent two consecutive income tax years beginning in two thousand nineteen, as verified by the department of taxation and finance; and (c) who served in and who received any honorable or general discharge from the United States army, navy, air force, marine corps,

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

LBD14947-02-2

1 coast guard and/or the reserves thereof, and/or the army national guard,
2 air national guard, New York guard or New York naval militia.

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

5 § 89-q. Water discount program. 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other
6 provision of law, the commission is authorized and directed to require
7 waterworks corporations and municipal water systems to establish a
8 discount program for veterans no later than ninety days after the effec-
9 tive date of this section. Such program shall offer a yearly benefit to
10 veterans in the form of a ten percent discount on water utility bills.
11 The fiscal impact of such program shall not be borne by customers and
12 shall not be added to bills rendered by a waterworks corporation or
13 municipal water system to customers.

14 (b) A waterworks corporation or municipal water system which offers
15 such discount program shall conspicuously advertise the availability and
16 amount of such discount on the website of such waterworks corporation or
17 municipal water system. The availability and amount of such discount
18 shall also be conspicuously advertised on the accessibility page of the
19 website of such waterworks corporation or municipal water system.

20 2. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" shall mean a resident
21 of the state who (a) is the primary named waterworks or municipal water
22 system service accountholder; (b) who has had a total household income
23 of less than fifty thousand dollars for the most recent two consecutive
24 income tax years beginning in two thousand nineteen, as verified by the
25 department of taxation and finance; and (c) who served in and who
26 received any honorable or general discharge from the United States army,
27 navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard and/or the reserves thereof,
28 and/or the army national guard, air national guard, New York guard or
29 New York naval militia.

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

32 § 91-b. Telephone discount program. 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other
33 provision of law, the commission is authorized and directed to require a
34 telephone corporation to establish a discount program for veterans no
35 later than ninety days after the effective date of this section. Such
36 program shall offer a yearly benefit to veterans in the form of a ten
37 percent discount on telephone bills. The fiscal impact of such program
38 shall not be borne by customers and shall not be added to bills rendered
39 by a telephone corporation to customers.

40 (b) A telephone corporation which offers such discount program shall
41 conspicuously advertise the availability and amount of such discount on
42 the website of such telephone corporation. The availability and amount
43 of such discount shall also be conspicuously advertised on the accessi-
44 bility page of the website of such telephone corporation.

45 2. (a) For the purposes of this section, "veteran" shall mean a resi-
46 dent of the state who (i) is the primary named telephone service
47 accountholder; (ii) who has had a total household income of less than
48 fifty thousand dollars for the most recent two consecutive income tax
49 years beginning in two thousand nineteen, as verified by the department
50 of taxation and finance; and (iii) who served in and who received any
51 honorable or general discharge from the United States army, navy, air
52 force, marine corps, coast guard and/or the reserves thereof, and/or the
53 army national guard, air national guard, New York guard or New York
54 naval militia.

1 (b) A primary named telephone service accountholder shall provide the
2 telephone corporation an authenticated copy of his or her discharge
3 papers to be eligible for such discount.

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

6 § 224-d. Cable discount program. 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other
7 provision of law, the commission is authorized and directed to require a
8 telephone corporation, as defined in subdivision seventeen of section
9 two of this chapter, and a cable television company, as defined in
10 section two hundred twelve of this article, that provides cable service
11 to customers in New York, to establish a discount program for veterans
12 no later than ninety days after the effective date of this section. Such
13 program shall offer a yearly benefit to veterans in the form of a ten
14 percent discount on cable bills. The fiscal impact of such program shall
15 not be borne by customers and shall not be added to bills rendered by a
16 telephone corporation or cable television company to customers.

17 (b) A telephone corporation or cable television company which offers
18 such discount program shall conspicuously advertise the availability and
19 amount of such discount on the website of such telephone corporation or
20 cable television company. The availability and amount of such discount
21 shall also be conspicuously advertised on the accessibility page of the
22 website of such telephone corporation or cable television company.

23 2. (a) For the purposes of this section, "veteran" shall mean a resi-
24 dent of the state who (i) is the primary named cable service account-
25 holder; (ii) who has had a total household income of less than fifty
26 thousand dollars for the most recent two consecutive income tax years
27 beginning in two thousand nineteen, as verified by the department of
28 taxation and finance; and (iii) who received any honorable or general
29 discharge from the United States army, navy, air force, marine corps,
30 coast guard and/or the reserves thereof, and/or the army national guard,
31 air national guard, New York guard or New York naval militia.

32 (b) A primary named cable service accountholder shall provide the
33 telephone corporation or the cable television company an authenticated
34 copy of his or her discharge papers to be eligible for such discount.

35 § 5. This act shall take effect immediately.