# STATE OF NEW YORK

9037

# IN SENATE

May 4, 2022

Introduced by Sen. BROOKS -- (at request of the Department of Civil Service) -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Civil Service and Pensions

AN ACT to amend the civil service law, in relation to state health insurance benefits for veterans

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

Section 1. Section 163 of the civil service law is amended by adding a new subdivision 9 to read as follows:

**9. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, rule or regulation to the contrary, a retired state employee who does not have the required years of service to continue in the health benefit plan shall be eligible to continue in the health benefit plan, if such employee has purchased military service credit pursuant to article twenty of the retirement and social security law and the sum of the employee's years of service and purchased military service credit is equal to or exceeds the years of service required to continue in the health benefit plan in retirement. Such employees must furnish written verification of purchased military service credit from a public retirement system of the state to the department. Retired employees eligible for participation in the health benefit plan pursuant to this provision shall have the same rights and privileges as all other retired employees in the health benefit plan. Retired state employees who become eligible for enrollment based on the provision of this section can enroll in the health plan prospectively, but are not entitled to retroactive coverage.**

**(b) Upon written notification to the department, participating employers in the health benefit plan may elect to allow retired employees who do not have the required years of service to continue in the health benefit plan, if such employees have purchased military service credit pursuant to article twenty of the retirement and social security law and the sum of the employee's years of service and purchased military service credit is equal to or exceeds the years of service required to continue in the health benefit plan in retirement. Such employees must furnish written verification of purchased military service credit from a**

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

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**public retirement system of the state to the department and the employer from which they retired. Retired employees eligible for participation in the health benefit plan pursuant to this provision shall have the same rights and privileges as all other retired employees in the health benefit plan.**

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.