

STATE OF NEW YORK

3710

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 7, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. RAJKUMAR, STERN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the military law, in relation to employment protections during the performance of state active duty by members of the national guard

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 301 of the military law, as
2 amended by chapter 574 of the laws of 1959, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 1. The term "military service" means duty by a person, male or female,
5 in the active military service of the United States as defined in
6 section one of this chapter [~~and~~]; active duty in the military service
7 of the state pursuant to an order of the governor issued pursuant to
8 section six or seven of this chapter; and state active duty by members
9 of the national guard who are activated pursuant to a call of the gover-
10 nor of this state or of any other state as provided for by law.

11 § 2. Section 317 of the military law, as added by chapter 728 of the
12 laws of 1951, subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 136 of the laws of
13 1952, subdivisions 2, 2-a and 3 as amended by chapter 312 of the laws of
14 1993, and subdivision 4 as amended by chapter 509 of the laws of 1956,
15 is amended to read as follows:

16 § 317. Reemployment in private industry. 1. In the case of any person
17 who, in order to perform military service, has left or leaves a posi-
18 tion, other than a temporary position, in the employ of any employer,
19 and who

20 (a) receives a certificate of completion of military service duly
21 executed by an officer of the applicable force of the armed forces of
22 the United States or by an officer of the applicable force of the organ-
23 ized militia of this state or of any other state as provided for by law;

24 (b) is still qualified to perform the duties of such position; and

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

LBD07848-01-3

1 (c) makes application for reemployment within ninety days after he or
2 she is relieved from such service, if such position was in the employ of
3 a private employer, such employer shall restore such person to such
4 position, or to a position of like seniority, status and pay, unless the
5 employer's circumstances have so changed as to make it impossible or
6 unreasonable to do so.

7 2. The benefits, rights and privileges granted to persons in the mili-
8 tary service by this section shall be extended to and be applicable to
9 any person who, in order to participate in assemblies for drill or other
10 equivalent training, reserve duty training, instruction or duties, or
11 annual full-time training duty, active duty for training or other annual
12 training pursuant to any law of the United States or section forty-six
13 of this chapter or the regulations issued thereunder, or in order to
14 attend service schools conducted by the armed forces of the United
15 States, temporarily leaves or has left his or her position, other than a
16 temporary position, in the employ of any employer and who, being quali-
17 fied to perform the duties of such position, makes application for reem-
18 ployment within ten days after completion of such temporary period of
19 service.

20 2-a. The benefits, rights and privileges granted to persons in the
21 military service by this section shall be extended to and be applicable
22 to any person who, in order to perform initial full-time training duty
23 or initial active duty for training with or in an armed force of the
24 United States under the provisions of this chapter or the laws of the
25 United States or both, temporarily leaves or has left his or her posi-
26 tion, other than a temporary position, in the employ of any employer and
27 who, being qualified to perform the duties of such position, makes
28 application for re-employment within sixty days after completion of such
29 period of full-time training duty or active duty for training.

30 3. The benefits, rights and privileges granted to persons in the mili-
31 tary service by this section shall be extended to and be applicable to
32 any person who is or becomes a member of the organized militia of this
33 state or of any other state as provided for by law, or of a reserve
34 component of the armed forces of the United States and who, because of
35 such membership is discharged by his or her employer or whose employment
36 is suspended by his or her employer because of such membership and who,
37 being qualified to perform the duties of such position, makes applica-
38 tion for reemployment or termination of the period of his or her suspen-
39 sion within ten days after such discharge or suspension. These benefits,
40 rights and privileges are not applicable to persons participating in
41 routine reserve officer training corps training except when performing
42 advanced training duty as a member of a reserve component of the armed
43 forces.

44 4. Any person who is restored to a position in accordance with the
45 provisions of this section shall be considered as having been on
46 furlough or leave of absence during his or her period of military
47 service, temporary service under subdivision two or subdivision two-a
48 [~~hereof~~] of this section, or of discharge or suspension under subdivi-
49 sion three [~~hereof~~] of this section, shall be so restored without loss
50 of seniority, shall be entitled to participate in insurance or other
51 benefits offered by the employer pursuant to established rules and prac-
52 tices relating to employees on furlough or leave of absence in effect
53 with the employer at the time such person entered the military service
54 or commenced such temporary service or was so discharged or suspended,
55 and shall not be discharged from such position without cause, within one
56 year after such restoration.

1 5. In case any private employer fails or refuses to comply with the
2 provisions of this section, the supreme court of the state within the
3 county in which such private employer maintains a place of business,
4 shall have the power, upon the filing of a motion, petition or other
5 appropriate pleading, by the person entitled to the benefits of such
6 provisions, to specifically require such employer to comply with such
7 provisions, and may, as an incident thereto, compensate such person for
8 any loss of wages or benefits suffered by reason of such employer's
9 unlawful action. The court shall order a speedy hearing in any such
10 case, and shall advance it on the calendar. Any person claiming to be
11 entitled to the benefits of the provisions of this section may appear
12 and be represented by counsel, or, upon application to the attorney
13 general of the state, may request that the attorney general appear and
14 act on his or her behalf. If the attorney general is reasonably satis-
15 fied that the person so applying is entitled to such benefits, he or she
16 shall appear and act as attorney for such person in the amicable adjust-
17 ment of the claim, or in the filing of any motion, petition or other
18 appropriate pleading and the prosecution thereof. In the hearing and
19 determination of such applications under this section no fees or court
20 costs shall be assessed against a person so applying for such benefits.
21 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.