STATE OF NEW YORK

4515--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 9, 2023

Introduced by Sen. FERNANDEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to adding veterans to protected classes for unlawful housing discrimination

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

Section 1. Section 296 of the executive law is amended by adding a new subdivision 2-b to read as follows:

2-b. (a) It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for the owner, lessee, sub-lessee, assignee, or managing agent of publicly-assisted housing accommodations or other person having the right of ownership or possession of or the right to rent or lease such accommodations to refuse to sell, rent or lease or otherwise to deny to or withhold from any person or group of persons such housing accommodations because of such person's status as a veteran.

(b) For the purposes of this subdivision, the term "veteran" means a person who served on active duty in the uniformed services of the United States, or in the army national guard, air national guard, or service as a commissioned officer in the public health service, commissioned officer of the national oceanic and atmospheric administration or environmental sciences services administration, or cadet at a United States armed forces service academy, and who has been released from such service.

§ 2. Subdivision 5 of section 296 of the executive law is amended by adding a new paragraph (h) to read as follows:

(h) (1) It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for any person offering or providing housing accommodations, land or commercial space as described in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this subdivision to

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

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refuse to sell, rent or lease any housing accommodation, land or commercial space to any person because of such person's status as a veteran.

(2) For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "veteran" means a person who served on active duty in the uniformed services of the United States, or in the army national guard, air national guard, or service as a commissioned officer in the public health service, commissioned officer of the national oceanic and atmospheric administration or environmental sciences services administration, or cadet at a United States armed forces service academy, and who has been released from such service.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.