

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5072

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

February 22, 2023

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

AN ACT to amend the private housing finance law, in relation to disabled veteran access to home for heroes contracts

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

Section 1. The private housing finance law is amended by adding a new article 32 to read as follows:

### ARTICLE XXXII

#### NEW YORK ACCESS TO HOME FOR HEROES PROGRAM

Section 1290. Statement of legislative findings and purpose.

1291. Definitions.

1292. Access to home for heroes contracts.

§ 1290. Statement of legislative findings and purpose. The legislature hereby finds and declares that many disabled veterans in New York state face a significant impediment to accessible and affordable housing as a result of service related injuries, age or health related disabilities. These men and women have served our country and state with honor and distinction and deserve to achieve maximum independence, social interaction and community integration. Providing financial assistance with the cost of adapting the dwelling units of our disabled veterans, is fundamental to providing for the promise of living safely, comfortably and productively in the most integrated setting of their choice.

§ 1291. Definitions. As used in this article:

1. "Corporation" shall mean the housing trust fund corporation established in section forty-five-a of this chapter.

2. "Eligible applicant" shall mean a city, town, village or not-for-profit corporation in existence for a period of one or more years prior to application, which is, or will be at the time of award, incorporated

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

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1 under the not-for-profit corporation law and has substantial experience  
2 in adapting or retrofitting homes for persons with disabilities.

3 3. "Veteran" shall mean a resident of this state who (a) has served on  
4 active duty in the United States army, navy, marine corps, air force or  
5 coast guard or (b) has served on active duty or ordered to active duty  
6 as defined in 10 USC 101 (d)(1) as a member of the national guard or  
7 other reserve component of the armed forces of the United States or (c)  
8 has served on active duty or ordered to active duty for the state, as a  
9 member of the state organized militia as defined in subdivision nine of  
10 section one of the military law and has been released from such service  
11 documented by an honorable or general discharge.

12 4. "Disabled veteran" shall mean a veteran who is certified by the  
13 United States Department of Veterans Affairs documented by a Letter of  
14 Certification or the United States Department of Defense certificate of  
15 release or discharge from active duty, including but not limited to a  
16 DD-214 form or an honorable certificate/report of casualty.

17 5. "Access to home for heroes programs" or "programs" shall mean a  
18 series of activities by an eligible applicant to administer funds to  
19 provide grants to homeowners and renters and to oversee the adaptation  
20 or retrofitting of eligible properties.

21 6. "Eligible property" shall mean a housing unit that is the primary  
22 residence of a disabled veteran and a total household income that does  
23 not exceed one hundred and twenty percent of area median income. A prop-  
24 erty shall not be considered an eligible property if the owner of the  
25 property is otherwise obligated by federal, state or local law to  
26 provide the improvements funded under this article.

27 § 1292. Access to home for heroes contracts. 1. Within the limit of  
28 funds available in the access to home for heroes program, the corpo-  
29 ration is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with eligible appli-  
30 cants to provide financial assistance for the actual costs of an access  
31 to home for heroes program. The financial assistance shall be in the  
32 form of grants. No more than fifty percent of the total amount awarded  
33 pursuant to this article in any fiscal year shall be allocated to access  
34 to home programs located within any single municipality.

35 2. The total payment pursuant to any one contract shall not exceed  
36 five hundred thousand dollars and the contract shall provide for  
37 completion of the program within a reasonable period, as specified ther-  
38 ein, which shall not in any event exceed three years from its commence-  
39 ment. Upon request, the corporation may extend the term of the contract  
40 for up to two additional one year periods for good cause shown by the  
41 eligible applicant.

42 3. The corporation may authorize the eligible applicant to spend up to  
43 seven and one-half percent of the contract amount for approved adminis-  
44 trative costs associated with administering the program.

45 4. The corporation shall require that, in order to receive funds  
46 pursuant to this article, the eligible applicant shall submit a plan  
47 which shall include, but not be limited to, program feasibility, impact  
48 on the community, budget for expenditure of program funds, a schedule  
49 for completion of the program, affirmative action and minority business  
50 participation.

51 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.