STATE OF NEW YORK

854

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 6, 2023

Introduced by Sen. SANDERS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to authorizing public requests for information from any county, city, town, or village desiring to have any memorial located within their municipality listed within the veterans memorial registry; to amend the veterans' services law, in relation to directing the department of veterans' services to establish a veterans memorial registry; and to repeal section 368-b of the executive law relating thereto

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

Section 1. Subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 368-b of the executive law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2022, amending the executive law relating to directing the division of veterans' services to develop a veterans memorial registry, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8729 and A. 9590, are amended to read as follows:

2. The registry shall consist of a searchable database of **those** veterans memorials located within the state **submitted pursuant to subdivision three of this section**. The registry shall include, but not be limited to, information regarding the location of a memorial and who or what veteran or battle the memorial is honoring. Additional information may include historical information such as who authorized the erection of such memorial and the year of the dedication. Such registry shall be searchable by location, veteran or battle.

3. [~~In developing such registry,~~] **The state director shall issue, on behalf of** the division [~~may solicit information from local historians pursuant to section 57.09 of the arts and cultural affairs law~~], **a public request for information for any county, city, town, or village desiring to have any memorial located within their municipality listed within the registry. Each county, city, town, or village may submit responses to the division's request for information at any time after such request for information has been issued**. Individuals and organizations, including but not limited to, local veterans' service agencies staff, and members of congressionally chartered veterans' service organ-

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

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izations may [~~submit information for~~] provide recommendations to a municipality for inclusion in the registry[~~, on a form developed by the division~~]. In responding to the division's public request for information, a municipality shall identify the memorial or memorials it desires to have included in the registry and submit any information required pursuant to subdivision two of this section to the division.

§ 2. The veterans' services law is amended by adding a new section 29-a to read as follows:

§ 29-a. Veterans memorial registry. 1. The department is directed to develop a veterans memorial registry in consultation with the director of the New York state military museum and veterans resource center, the commissioner of the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation, the commissioner of the office of general services and the state historian. The registry shall be made available on the department's website.

2. The registry shall consist of a searchable database of those veterans memorials located within the state submitted pursuant to subdivision three of this section. The registry shall include, but not be limited to, information regarding the location of a memorial and who or what veteran or battle such memorial is honoring. Additional information may include historical information such as who authorized the erection of such memorial and the year of the dedication. Such registry shall be searchable by location, veteran or battle.

3. The state commissioner shall issue, on behalf of the department, a public request for information for any county, city, town, or village desiring to have any memorial located within their municipality listed within the registry. Each county, city, town, or village may submit responses to the department's request for information at any time after the request for information has been issued. Individuals and organizations, including but not limited to, local veterans' service agencies staff and members of congressionally chartered veterans' service organizations may provide recommendations to a municipality for inclusion in the registry. In responding to the department's public request for information, a municipality shall identify the memorial or memorials it desires to have included in the registry and submit any information required pursuant to subdivision two of this section to the department.

§ 3. Section 368-b of the executive law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2022, amending the executive law relating to directing the division of veterans' services to develop a veterans memorial registry, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8729 and A. 9590, is REPEALED.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2022 amending the executive law relating to directing the division of veterans' services to develop a veterans memorial registry, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8729 and A. 9590, takes effect; provided, however, that section three of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as section 2 of part PP of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, takes effect. Provided, further:

(a) that the amendments made to subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 368-b of the executive law made by section one of this act shall not affect the repeal of such section and shall be deemed repealed therewith; and

(b) that if section 2 of part PP of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022 shall not have taken effect on or before such date then section two of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as section 2 of part PP of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, takes effect.