

STATE OF NEW YORK

9258

IN SENATE

May 8, 2024

Introduced by Sens. SCARCELLA-SPANTON, ADDABBO -- 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 veterans' services law and the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to veterans receiving information on benefits

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

1 Section 1. Section 7 of the veterans' services law is amended to read
2 as follows:
3 § 7. Information on status of veterans receiving assistance. Depart-
4 ments, divisions, bureaus, boards, commissions and agencies of the state
5 and political subdivisions thereof, which provide assistance, treatment,
6 counseling, care, supervision or custody in service areas involving
7 health, mental health, family services, criminal justice or employment,
8 including but not limited to the office of addiction services and
9 supports, office of mental health, office of probation and correctional
10 alternatives, office of children and family services, office of tempo-
11 rary and disability assistance, department of health, department of
12 labor, local workforce investment boards, office for people with devel-
13 opmental disabilities, and department of corrections and community
14 supervision, shall request assisted persons to provide information with
15 regard to their veteran status and military experiences. Individuals
16 identifying themselves as veterans, including individuals requesting and
17 obtaining a veteran notation on such individual's driver's license or
18 non-driver identification card pursuant to sections four hundred ninety
19 and five hundred two of the vehicle and traffic law, shall be advised
20 that the department of veterans' services and local veterans' service
21 agencies established pursuant to section fourteen of this article
22 provide assistance to veterans regarding benefits under federal and
23 state law. Information regarding veterans status and military service
24 provided by assisted persons solely to implement this section shall be
25 protected as personal confidential information under article six-A of
26 the public officers law against disclosure of confidential material, and
27 used only to assist in the diagnosis, treatment, assessment and handling

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

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1 of the veteran's problems within the agency requesting such information
2 and in referring the veteran to the department of veterans' services for
3 information and assistance with regard to benefits and entitlements
4 under federal and state law.

5 § 2. Subdivision 6 of section 508 of the vehicle and traffic law, as
6 added by chapter 602 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

7 6. The commissioner, in consultation with the [~~director~~] commissioner
8 of the [~~division~~] department of veterans' services, is directed to
9 establish a process by which the department shall refer driver's license
10 and non-driver identification card applicants requesting and obtaining a
11 notation upon such license or non-driver identification card that [~~he or~~
12 ~~she~~] such applicant is a veteran of the United States armed forces
13 pursuant to subdivision three of section four hundred ninety of this
14 chapter or subdivision one of section five hundred two of this article,
15 upon [~~his or her~~] such applicant's request, to the [~~division~~] department
16 of veterans' services, consistent with the provisions of section [~~three~~
17 ~~hundred-fifty-four-a~~] seven of the [~~executive~~] veterans' services law.

18 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.