STATE OF NEW YORK

9214

IN ASSEMBLY

February 16, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. HUNTER, BUTTENSCHON, PHEFFER AMATO, RAJKUMAR, JEAN-PIERRE, EACHUS, OTIS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT to amend the veterans' services law, in relation to establishing a searchable database of veteran-owned businesses

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

Section 1. The veterans' services law is amended by adding a new section 29-b to read as follows:

§ 29-b. Veteran-owned business directory. 1. As used in this section the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Business owned and controlled by veterans" means a business (i) not less than fifty-one percent of which is owned by one or more veterans, or, in the case of any publicly owned business, not less than fifty-one percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more veterans; (ii) the management and daily business operations of which are controlled by one or more veterans; and (iii) authorized to do business in the state and which is independently owned and operated.

(b) "Veteran" means a person, as defined in section one of this article, who served on active duty and has been discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable, or has a qualifying condition as defined in section one of this article and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable, or is a discharged LGBT veteran as defined in section one of this article and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable;

(c) "Service-disabled veteran" shall have the same meaning as defined in section forty of this chapter;

(d) "Certified service-disabled veteran-owned business enterprise" shall have the same meaning as defined in section forty of this chapter; and

(e) "Veteran-owned business enterprises" shall mean businesses owned and controlled by veterans, and service-disabled veteran-owned business enterprises.

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

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2. The department, with the aid and assistance of the division of small business, the department of labor, the division of service-disabled veterans' business development, and the office of general services, shall develop, regularly update, and make available to state agencies and the public a directory of veteran-owned business enterprises which shall, wherever practicable, be divided into categories of labor, services, supplies, equipment, materials and recognized construction trades and which shall indicate areas or locations of the state where such enterprises are available to perform services. Such directory shall use an asterisk or other special mark to denote any veteran-owned business enterprises which are service-disabled veteran-owned business enterprises. Such directory shall be posted on the department's website.

3. The office of general services shall also use this information to create and regularly update an internet based, searchable centralized state database to promote veteran-owned business enterprises to the public and shall post such database on the office of general services' website.

4. The department with the office of general services shall conduct outreach to notify veteran-owned business enterprises of such directory and database.

5. The department shall develop a registration process with the office of general services for veteran-owned business enterprises to complete in order to compile information for inclusion in the directory and database. The department shall be responsible for verifying businesses as being a business owned and controlled by veterans as defined in this section including the development of rules and regulations governing the approval, denial, or revocation of a business's status as a business owned and controlled by veterans.

§ 2. Subdivision 7 of section 4 of the veterans' services law is amended to read as follows:

7. To provide in cooperation with the office of general services and the office of the comptroller a series of seminars, that shall be conducted four or more times per year at regional sites located throughout the state of New York for the purpose of advising veteran-owned businesses regarding the opportunities available for obtaining procurement contracts from New York state agencies, municipalities, and authorities. [~~Furthermore the~~] The seminars shall provide requirements and training that will enable veteran-owned businesses to successfully participate in the procurement process. Furthermore, the seminars shall provide registration information regarding the veteran-owned business directory and database pursuant to section twenty-nine-b of this article.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of April next succeeding the date upon which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.