

STATE OF NEW YORK

1803--A

Cal. No. 982

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 17, 2023

Introduced by Sens. RAMOS, ASHBY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

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:

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

3 § 29-b. Veteran-owned business directory. 1. As used in this section
4 the following terms shall have the following meanings:

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

12 (b) "Veteran" means a person, as defined in section one of this arti-
13 cle, who served on active duty and has been discharged or released ther-
14 efrom under conditions other than dishonorable, or has a qualifying
15 condition as defined in section one of this article and has received a
16 discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable, or is a discharged
17 LGBT veteran as defined in section one of this article and has received
18 a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 7. To provide in cooperation with the office of general services and
39 the office of the comptroller a series of seminars, that shall be
40 conducted four or more times per year at regional sites located through-
41 out the state of New York for the purpose of advising veteran-owned
42 businesses regarding the opportunities available for obtaining procure-
43 ment contracts from New York state agencies, municipalities, and author-
44 ities. ~~Furthermore—the~~ The seminars shall provide requirements and
45 training that will enable veteran-owned businesses to successfully
46 participate in the procurement process. Furthermore, the seminars shall
47 provide registration information regarding the veteran-owned business
48 directory and database pursuant to section twenty-nine-b of this arti-
49 cle.

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