STATE OF NEW YORK

454

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 4, 2023

Introduced by Sens. GIANARIS, ADDABBO, FELDER, HELMING, WEIK -- 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 general municipal law, in relation to directing counties and the city of New York to request a congressionally chartered veterans' organization to arrange for the funeral and burial of a deceased veteran who has no next of kin or other person to make such arrangements

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1-a of section 148 of the general municipal law, as amended by chapter 29 of the laws of 2016, is amended and a new paragraph (f) is added to read as follows:

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in the case of a veteran, as defined in section forty-two hundred three of the public health law, who died in a county or the city of New York leaving no funds or insurance sufficient to pay funeral and burial expenses of such veteran and such veteran has no next of kin or person of record previously designated to control his or her final disposition pursuant to section four thousand two hundred one of the public health law, such county or the city of New York [~~may~~] **shall** request a congressionally chartered veterans' organization within the county or the city of New York where the decedent resided at the time of death, to engage the services of a funeral firm to conduct the funeral and burial services.

(f) (i) Such veterans' organization and/or the funeral firm engaged to provide such services may make application to the division of veterans' services for indigent burial reimbursement as provided in this section as joint claimant with the veterans' organization, or with the consent of such veterans' organization.

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

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(ii) If such veterans' organization declines such request for any reason, a county or the city of New York may directly engage the services of a funeral firm which shall then serve as a sole claimant.

(iii) The application form shall also contain the following information about the funeral firm whose services are being engaged: (1) name; (2) full address; (3) telephone; (4) e-mail address; (5) name of funeral director supervising the services; (6) the supervising funeral director's license number; and (7) any other information the director of the division of veterans' services may require.

(iv) Such application must also be signed and dated by the supervising funeral director.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.