

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6655

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

May 3, 2023

Introduced by Sens. GRIFFO, LANZA -- 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 executive law, in relation to the establishment of the New York state veterans cemetery act

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "New York state veterans cemetery act".

3 § 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 368-c to  
4 read as follows:

5 § 368-c. Veterans cemetery funding promotion program. The division is  
6 hereby directed to establish, produce and conduct a New York state  
7 veterans cemetery funding promotion program. The purpose of the New York  
8 state veterans cemetery funding program would be to encourage the giving  
9 of financial contributions, by individuals, groups and corporations, to  
10 the veterans remembrance and cemetery maintenance and operation fund,  
11 created pursuant to section ninety-seven-mmmm of the state finance law,  
12 which was established to provide funding for veterans cemeteries pursu-  
13 ant to the New York state veterans cemetery program created under  
14 section three hundred sixty-five of this chapter. In establishing the  
15 New York state veterans cemetery funding promotion program, the division  
16 shall establish, produce and conduct programs, projects, and materials  
17 designed to encourage the giving of financial contributions, by individ-  
18 uals, groups and corporations, to the veterans remembrance and cemetery  
19 maintenance and operation fund. The division shall further seek, and may  
20 apply on behalf of the state of New York, for grants and contributions,  
21 from governments and/or other institutional funding sources, for deposit  
22 in, and use by, the veterans remembrance and cemetery maintenance and  
23 operation fund, for the purpose of constructing, operating and financing  
24 New York state veterans cemeteries. Every year, not later than the

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

LBD05506-02-3

1 fifteenth of December, the division shall produce a report of the activ-  
2 ities and operation of the New York state veterans cemetery funding  
3 promotion program, and shall deliver a copy of such report to the gover-  
4 nor, the temporary president of the senate, the senate minority leader,  
5 the speaker of the assembly, the assembly minority leader, the chair of  
6 the senate standing committee on veterans, homeland security and mili-  
7 tary affairs, the ranking member of the senate standing committee on  
8 veterans, homeland security and military affairs, the chair of the  
9 assembly standing committee on veterans' affairs, and the ranking member  
10 of the assembly standing committee on veterans' affairs. Such report  
11 shall contain information on the operations and progress of the New York  
12 state veterans cemetery funding promotion program, as well as recommen-  
13 dations to the legislature on the New York state veterans cemetery fund-  
14 ing promotion program, and establishing, maintaining and operating state  
15 veterans cemeteries in accordance with the New York state veterans ceme-  
16 tery program.

17 § 3. The veterans' services law is amended by adding a new section  
18 24-a to read as follows:

19 § 24-a. Veterans cemetery funding promotion program. The department is  
20 hereby directed to establish, produce and conduct a New York state  
21 veterans cemetery funding promotion program. The purpose of the New York  
22 state veterans cemetery funding promotion program would be to encourage  
23 the giving of financial contributions, by individuals, groups and corpo-  
24 rations, to the veterans remembrance and cemetery maintenance and opera-  
25 tion fund, created pursuant to section ninety-seven-~~mmmm~~ of the state  
26 finance law, which was established to provide funding for veterans ceme-  
27 teries pursuant to the New York state veterans cemetery program created  
28 under section twenty-four of this article. In establishing the New York  
29 state veterans cemetery funding promotion program, the department shall  
30 establish, produce and conduct programs, projects, and materials  
31 designed to encourage the giving of financial contributions, by individ-  
32 uals, groups and corporations, to the veterans remembrance and cemetery  
33 maintenance and operation fund. The department shall further seek, and  
34 may apply on behalf of the state of New York, for grants and contrib-  
35 utions, from governments and/or other institutional funding sources, for  
36 deposit in, and use by, the veterans remembrance and cemetery mainte-  
37 nance and operation fund, for the purpose of constructing, operating and  
38 financing New York state veterans cemeteries. Every year, not later than  
39 the fifteenth of December, the department shall produce a report of the  
40 activities and operation of the New York state veterans cemetery funding  
41 promotion program, and shall deliver a copy of such report to the gover-  
42 nor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly,  
43 the chair of the senate standing committee on veterans, homeland securi-  
44 ty and military affairs and the chair of the assembly standing committee  
45 on veterans' affairs. Such report shall contain information on the oper-  
46 ations and progress of the New York state veterans cemetery funding  
47 promotion program, as well as recommendations to the legislature on the  
48 New York state veterans cemetery funding promotion program, and estab-  
49 lishing, maintaining and operating state veterans cemeteries in accord-  
50 ance with the New York state veterans cemetery program.

51 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that  
52 section 368-c of the executive law as added by section two of this act  
53 shall be subject to the repeal of such article pursuant to section 1 of  
54 part PP of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, as amended, when upon such  
55 date the provisions of section three of this act shall take effect.