STATE OF NEW YORK

8503

IN SENATE

February 6, 2024

Introduced by Sen. ASHBY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the veterans' services law, in relation to establishing the veterans' services organization capital support program

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 article 4 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 4

VETERANS' SERVICES ORGANIZATION CAPITAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

Section 50. Definitions.

51. Establishment and criteria.

52. Eligible purposes.

§ 50. Definitions. For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "Eligible entity" means a veteran service organization as defined pursuant to Title 38 U.S. Code Section 5902 and that also is organized as a not-for-profit organization pursuant to the Title 26 U.S. Code Section 501(c), which may include but shall not be limited to the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, American Veterans and Vietnam Veterans of America.

§ 51. Establishment and criteria. There is hereby established the veterans' services organization capital support program for the eligible purposes under section fifty-two of this article. The commissioner shall develop criteria for the disbursement of funds authorized under section fifty-two of this article to an eligible entity.

§ 52. Eligible purposes. Within amounts specifically appropriated therefore, the commissioner shall award grants not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars for payment of the capital costs of construction, improvement, repairs, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of facilities owned by eligible entities pursuant to this article, and for the acquisition of related equipment with a useful life of not less than ten

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

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years. Such capital costs may include, but shall not be limited to, engineering and design costs. No funds authorized under this section shall be used as a required match or be considered a local share to other state programs or to leverage state aid or grants.

§ 2. The sum of ten million dollars ($10,000,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the department of veterans' services out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the veterans' services organization capital support program, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of veterans' services in the manner prescribed by law.

§ 3. Severability clause. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such invalid provisions had not been included herein.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.