STATE OF NEW YORK

291

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BARRETT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT to amend the general construction law, the election law, the insurance law, the military law, the public officers law, the economic development law, the civil service law and the real property tax law, in relation to including members of the space force as being members of the armed forces or veterans eligible for certain credits and benefits

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

Section 1. Section 13-a of the general construction law, as amended by section 60 of part PP of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

§ 13-a. Armed forces of the United States. "Armed forces of the United States" means the army, navy, marine corps, air force**, space force** and coast guard including all components thereof, and the national guard when in the service of the United States pursuant to call as provided by law. Pursuant to this definition no person shall be considered a member or veteran of the armed forces of the United States unless [~~his or her~~] **such member or veteran's** service therein is or was on a full-time active duty basis, other than active duty for training or [~~he or she~~] **such member or veteran** was employed by the War Shipping Administration or Office of Defense Transportation or their agents as a merchant seaman documented by the United States Coast Guard or Department of Commerce, or as a civil servant employed by the United States Army Transport Service (later redesignated as the United States Army Transportation Corps, Water Division) or the Naval Transportation Service; and who served satisfactorily as a crew member during the period of armed conflict, December seventh, nineteen hundred forty-one, to August fifteenth, nineteen hundred forty-five, aboard merchant vessels in

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

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oceangoing, i.e., foreign, intercoastal, or coastwise service as such terms are defined under federal law (46 USCA 10301 & 10501) and further to include "near foreign" voyages between the United States and Canada, Mexico, or the West Indies via ocean routes, or public vessels in ocean-going service or foreign waters and who has received a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty and a discharge certificate, or an Honorable Service Certificate/Report of Casualty, from the Department of Defense or [~~he or she~~] **the member or veteran** served as a United States civilian employed by the American Field Service and served overseas under United States Armies and United States Army Groups in world war II during the period of armed conflict, December seventh, nineteen hundred forty-one through May eighth, nineteen hundred forty-five, and (i) was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions, or (ii) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (iii) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or [~~he or she~~] **the member or veteran** served as a United States civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employee of Pan American World Airways or one of its subsidiaries or its affiliates and served overseas as a result of Pan American's contract with Air Transport Command or Naval Air Transport Service during the period of armed conflict, December fourteenth, nineteen hundred forty-one through August fourteenth, nineteen hundred forty-five, and (iv) was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions, or (v) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (vi) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 10-102 of the election law, as amended by chapter 104 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

1. "Military service" means the military service of the state, or of the United States, including the army, navy, marine corps, air force, **space force,** coast guard, merchant marine and all components thereof, and the coast and geodetic survey, the public health service, the national guard when in the service of the United States pursuant to call as provided by law, and the cadets or midshipmen of the United States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy, United States Air Force Academy and United States Coast Guard Academy.

§ 3. Subsection (a) of section 3435-a of the insurance law, as amended by chapter 416 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Insurers shall be prohibited from refusing to issue a motor vehicle liability insurance policy to any person with a valid New York state driver's license which has been maintained by such person for at least thirty-nine months prior to the time of application for such policy of insurance solely on the basis that such person has not owned or leased a vehicle during such period, unless such decision is based on sound underwriting and actuarial principles reasonably related to actual or anticipated loss experience. Provided, however, that an applicant demonstrating a continuous, valid out-of-state or out-of-country driver's license during such thirty-nine month period due to active service in the United States army, navy, air force, **space force** or marines shall be treated as if continuous licensing had been maintained in New York and

such person shall not be rejected based solely on the fact that [~~he or she~~] **such person** served in the military.

§ 4. Subdivisions 3, 4 and 8 of section 1 of the military law, as amended by chapter 112 of the laws of 1989, are amended to read as follows:

3. The terms "military" and "military and naval" shall mean army or land, air or air force**, space force or space** and navy or naval.

4. The terms "military or naval" and "military (including air) or naval" shall mean army or land, air or air force**, space force or space** or navy or naval.

8. The terms "active military service of the United States" and "in the armed forces of the United States" shall mean full time duty in the army, navy [~~(including~~]**,** marine corps[~~)~~], air force**, space force** or coast guard of the United States.

§ 5. Paragraph a and subparagraph 2 of paragraph b of subdivision 1 of section 214 of the military law, paragraph a as added by chapter 853 of the laws of 1953 and subparagraph 2 of paragraph b as amended by chapter 625 of the laws of 1965, are amended to read as follows:

a. has been a commissioned officer in active service for at least twenty years in the organized militia of the state of New York or in the army, air force, **space force,** navy or marine corps of the United States for at least twenty years and

(2) for ten consecutive years of such service immediately preceding [~~his~~] **such officer's** retirement and transfer to the state retired list as provided in this chapter, if [~~he~~] **such officer** has had actual combat experience in time of war while in the army, air force, **space force,** navy or marine corps of the United States or if [~~he~~] **such officer** has served on the active list of a force or forces of the organized militia for at least ten years as an enlisted [~~man~~] **person** and at least thirty years as a commissioned officer, shall receive annually from the date of [~~his~~] **such officer's** retirement and transfer to the state retired list as provided in this chapter and during the time [~~he~~] **such officer** remains on the state retired list seventy-five per centum of the highest annual rate of compensation paid to [~~him~~] **such officer** by the state for the performance of military or naval duty.

§ 6. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 243 of the military law, as amended by section 71 of part PP of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The term "military duty" shall mean military service in the military, naval, aviation**, space** or marine service of the United States subsequent to July first, nineteen hundred forty, or service under the selective training and service act of nineteen hundred forty, or the national guard and reserve officers mobilization act of nineteen hundred forty, or any other act of congress supplementary or amendatory thereto, or any similar act of congress hereafter enacted and irrespective of the fact that such service was entered upon following a voluntary enlistment therefor or was required under one of the foregoing acts of congress, or service with the United States public health service as a commissioned officer, or service with the American Red Cross while with the armed forces of the United States on foreign service, or service with the special services section of the armed forces of the United States on foreign service, or service in the merchant marine which shall consist of service as an officer or member of the crew on or in connection with a vessel documented under the laws of the United States or a vessel owned by, chartered to, or operated by or for the account or use of the government of the United States, or service by one who was employed by

the War Shipping Administration or Office of Defense Transportation or their agents as a merchant seaman documented by the United States Coast Guard or Department of Commerce, or as a civil servant employed by the United States Army Transport Service (later redesignated as the United States Army Transportation Corps, Water Division) or the Naval Transportation Service; and who served satisfactorily as a crew member during the period of armed conflict, December seventh, nineteen hundred forty-one, to August fifteenth, nineteen hundred forty-five, aboard merchant vessels in oceangoing, i.e., foreign, intercoastal, or coastwise service as such terms are defined under federal law (46 USCA 10301 & 10501) and further to include "near foreign" voyages between the United States and Canada, Mexico, or the West Indies via ocean routes, or public vessels in oceangoing service or foreign waters and who has received a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty and a discharge certificate, or an Honorable Service Certificate/Report of Casualty, from the Department of Defense, or who served as a United States civilian employed by the American Field Service and served overseas under United States Armies and United States Army Groups in world war II during the period of armed conflict, December seventh, nineteen hundred forty-one through May eighth, nineteen hundred forty-five, and who (i) was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions, or (ii) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (iii) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or who served as a United States civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employee of Pan American World Airways or one of its subsidiaries or its affiliates and served overseas as a result of Pan American's contract with Air Transport Command or Naval Air Transport Service during the period of armed conflict, December fourteenth, nineteen hundred forty-one through August fourteenth, nineteen hundred forty-five, and who (iv) was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions, or (v) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (vi) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service; or service in police duty on behalf of the United States government in a foreign country, if such person is a police officer, as defined by section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law, and if such police officer obtained the prior consent of [~~his or her~~] **their** public employer to absent [~~himself or herself~~] **themself** from [~~his or her~~] **such police officer's** position to engage in the performance of such service; or as an enrollee in the United States maritime service on active duty and, to such extent as may be prescribed by or under the laws of the United States, any period awaiting assignment to such service and any period of education or training for such service in any school or institution under the jurisdiction of the United States government, but shall not include temporary and intermittent gratuitous service in any reserve or auxiliary force. It shall include time spent in reporting for and returning from military duty and shall be deemed to commence when the public employee leaves [~~his or her~~] **their** position and to end when [~~he or she~~] **such public employee** is reinstated to [~~his or her~~] **their** position, provided such reinstatement is within ninety days after the termination of military duty, as hereinafter defined. Notwith-

standing the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, the term "military duty" shall not include any of the foregoing services entered upon voluntarily on or after January first, nineteen hundred forty-seven and before June twenty-fifth, nineteen hundred fifty; and, on or after July first, nineteen hundred seventy, the term "military duty" shall not include any voluntary service in excess of four years performed after that date, or the total of any voluntary services, additional or otherwise, in excess of four years performed after that date, shall not exceed five years, if the service in excess of four years is at the request and for the convenience of the federal government, except if such voluntary service is performed during a period of war, or national emergency declared by the president.

§ 7. Subdivision 17 of section 243 of the military law, as amended by chapter 312 of the laws of 1993, is amended to read as follows:

17. Certificates as to service. A certificate signed by the commander, total army personnel center as to persons in the army or in any branch of the United States service while serving pursuant to law with the army of the United States, signed by the commander, naval military personnel as to persons in the United States service while serving pursuant to law with the United States navy, and signed by the commandant, United States marine corps, as to persons in the marine corps, or in any other branch of the United States service while serving pursuant to law with the marine corps, signed by the chief, air force military personnel center as to persons in the United States service while serving pursuant to law with the United States air force **or with the United States space force,** or signed by an officer designated by any of them, respectively, for the purpose, shall when produced be prima facie evidence as to any of the following facts stated in such certificate: That a person named has not been, or is, or has been in military service; the time when and the place where such person entered military service, [~~his~~] **such person's** residence at that time, and the rank, branch, and unit of such service that [~~he~~] **such person** entered, the dates within which [~~he~~] **such person** was in military service, the monthly pay received by such person at the date of issuing the certificate, the time when and the place where such person died in or was discharged from such service. It is the duty of the foregoing officers to furnish such certificate on application, and any such certificate when purporting to be signed by any one of such officers, or by any person purporting upon the face of the certificate to have been so authorized, shall be prima facie evidence of its contents and of the authority of the signer to issue the same.

§ 8. Section 63 of the public officers law, as amended by section 80 of part PP of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

§ 63. Leave of absence for veterans on Memorial day and Veterans' day. It shall be the duty of the head of every public department and of every court of the state of New York, of every superintendent or [~~foreman~~] **foreperson** on the public works of said state, of the county officers of the several counties of said state, of the town officers of the various towns in this state, of the fire district officers of the various fire districts in this state, and of the head of every department, bureau and office in the government of the various cities and villages in this state, and the officers of any public benefit corporation or any public authority of this state, or of any public benefit corporation or public authority of any county or subdivision of this state, to give leave of absence with pay for twenty-four hours on the day prescribed by law as a public holiday for the observance of Memorial day and on the eleventh

day of November, known as Veterans' day, to every person in the service of the state, the county, the town, the fire district, the city or village, the public benefit corporation or public authority of this state, or any public benefit corporation or public authority of any county or subdivision of this state, as the case may be, (i) who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States during world war I or world war II, or who was employed by the War Shipping Administration or Office of Defense Transportation or their agents as a merchant seaman documented by the United States Coast Guard or Department of Commerce, or as a civil servant employed by the United States Army Transport Service (later redesignated as the United States Army Transportation Corps, Water Division) or the Naval Transportation Service; and who served satisfactorily as a crew member during the period of armed conflict, December seventh, nineteen hundred forty-one, to August fifteenth, nineteen hundred forty-five, aboard merchant vessels in oceangoing, i.e., foreign, intercoastal, or coastwise service as such terms are defined under federal law (46 USCA 10301 & 10501) and further to include "near foreign" voyages between the United States and Canada, Mexico, or the West Indies via ocean routes, or public vessels in oceangoing service or foreign waters and who has received a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty and a discharge certificate, or an Honorable Service Certificate/Report of Casualty, from the Department of Defense, or who served as a United States civilian employed by the American Field Service and served overseas under United States Armies and United States Army Groups in world war II during the period of armed conflict, December seventh, nineteen hundred forty-one through May eighth, nineteen hundred forty-five, and who (a) was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions, or (b) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (c) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service or who served as a United States civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employee of Pan American World Airways or one of its subsidiaries or its affiliates and served overseas as a result of Pan American's contract with Air Transport Command or Naval Air Transport Service during the period of armed conflict, December fourteenth, nineteen hundred forty-one through August fourteenth, nineteen hundred forty-five, and who (d) was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions, or (e) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (f) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service or during the period of the Korean conflict at any time between the dates of June twenty-seventh, nineteen hundred fifty and January thirty-first, nineteen hundred fifty-five, or during the period of the Vietnam conflict from the first day of November, nineteen hundred fifty-five to the seventh day of May, nineteen hundred seventy-five, or (ii) who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and who was a recipient of the armed forces expeditionary medal, navy expeditionary medal or marine corps expeditionary medal for participation in operations in Lebanon from June first, nineteen hundred eighty-three to December first, nineteen hundred eighty-seven, in Grenada from October twenty-third, nineteen hundred eighty-three to November twenty-first,

nineteen hundred eighty-three, or in Panama from December twentieth, nineteen hundred eighty-nine to January thirty-first, nineteen hundred ninety, or (iii) who served in the armed forces of a foreign country allied with the United States during world war I or world war II, or during the period of the Korean conflict at any time between June twenty-seventh, nineteen hundred fifty and January thirty-first, nineteen hundred fifty-five, or during the period of the Vietnam conflict from the first day of November, nineteen hundred fifty-five to the seventh day of May, nineteen hundred seventy-five, or during the period of the Persian Gulf conflict from the second day of August, nineteen hundred ninety to the end of such conflict, or who served on active duty in the army or navy or marine corps or air force **or space force** or coast guard of the United States, and who (a) was honorably discharged or separated from such service under honorable conditions, or (b) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (c) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service except where such action would endanger the public safety or the safety or health of persons cared for by the state, in which event such persons shall be entitled to leave of absence with pay on another day in lieu thereof. All such persons who are compensated on a per diem, hourly, semi-monthly or monthly basis, with or without maintenance, shall also be entitled to leave of absence with pay under the provisions of this section and no deduction in vacation allowance or budgetary allowable number of working days shall be made in lieu thereof. A refusal to give such leave of absence to one entitled thereto shall be neglect of duty.

§ 9. Subdivision 6 of section 210 of the economic development law, as amended by section 33 of part PP of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

6. "Veteran" shall mean a person who served in the United States army, navy, air force, **space force,** marines, coast guard, and/or reserves thereof, and/or in the army national guard, air national guard, New York guard and/or New York naval militia and who (a) has received an honorable or general discharge from such service, or (b) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (c) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service.

§ 10. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 5 of section 50 of the civil service law, as amended by section 1 of part EE of chapter 55 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the state civil service department, subject to the approval of the director of the budget, a municipal commission, subject to the approval of the governing board or body of the city or county, as the case may be, or a regional commission or personnel officer, pursuant to governmental agreement, may elect to waive application fees, or to abolish fees for specific classes of positions or types of examinations or candidates, or to establish a uniform schedule of reasonable fees different from those prescribed in paragraph (a) of this subdivision, specifying in such schedule the classes of positions or types of examinations or candidates to which such fees shall apply; provided, however, that fees shall be waived for candidates who certify to the state

civil service department, a municipal commission or a regional commission that they are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household, or are receiving public assistance. Provided further, the state civil service department shall waive the state application fee for examinations for original appointment for all veterans. Provided further, the state civil service department shall, and a municipal commission may, subject to the approval of the governing board or body of the city or county, as the case may be, or a regional commission or personnel officer, pursuant to governmental agreement, waive application fees for all examinations held between July first, two thousand twenty-three and December thirty-first, two thousand twenty-five. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of this section, the term "veteran" shall mean a person who has served in the armed forces of the United States or the reserves thereof, or in the army national guard, air national guard, New York guard, or the New York naval militia, and who (1) has been honorably discharged or released from such service under honorable conditions, or (2) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (3) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service. The term "armed forces" shall mean the army, navy, air force, **space force,** marine corps, and coast guard.

§ 11. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 5 of section 50 of the civil service law, as amended by section 35 of part PP of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the state civil service department, subject to the approval of the director of the budget, a municipal commission, subject to the approval of the governing board or body of the city or county, as the case may be, or a regional commission or personnel officer, pursuant to governmental agreement, may elect to waive application fees, or to abolish fees for specific classes of positions or types of examinations or candidates, or to establish a uniform schedule of reasonable fees different from those prescribed in paragraph (a) of this subdivision, specifying in such schedule the classes of positions or types of examinations or candidates to which such fees shall apply; provided, however, that fees shall be waived for candidates who certify to the state civil service department, a municipal commission or a regional commission that they are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household, or are receiving public assistance. Provided further, the state civil service department shall waive the state application fee for examinations for original appointment for all veterans. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of this section, the term "veteran" shall mean a person who has served in the armed forces of the United States or the reserves thereof, or in the army national guard, air national guard, New York guard, or the New York naval militia, and who (1) has been honorably discharged or released from such service under honorable conditions, or (2) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (3) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service. The term "armed forces"

shall mean the army, navy, air force, **space force,** marine corps, and coast guard.

§ 12. Paragraph (e) of subdivision 1 of section 458-a of the real property tax law, as amended by chapter 611 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

(e) "Veteran" means a person (i) who served in the active military, naval, **space,** or air service during a period of war, or who was a recipient of the armed forces expeditionary medal, navy expeditionary medal, marine corps expeditionary medal, or global war on terrorism expeditionary medal, and who (1) was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions, or (2) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (3) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, (ii) who was employed by the War Shipping Administration or Office of Defense Transportation or their agents as a merchant seaman documented by the United States Coast Guard or Department of Commerce, or as a civil servant employed by the United States Army Transport Service (later redesignated as the United States Army Transportation Corps, Water Division) or the Naval Transportation Service; and who served satisfactorily as a crew member during the period of armed conflict, December seventh, nineteen hundred forty-one, to August fifteenth, nineteen hundred forty-five, aboard merchant vessels in oceangoing, i.e., foreign, intercoastal, or coastwise service as such terms are defined under federal law (46 USCA 10301 & 10501) and further to include "near foreign" voyages between the United States and Canada, Mexico, or the West Indies via ocean routes, or public vessels in oceangoing service or foreign waters and who has received a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty and a discharge certificate, or an Honorable Service Certificate/Report of Casualty, from the department of defense, (iii) who served as a United States civilian employed by the American Field Service and served overseas under United States Armies and United States Army Groups in world war II during the period of armed conflict, December seventh, nineteen hundred forty-one through May eighth, nineteen hundred forty-five, and who (1) was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions, or (2) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (3) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, (iv) who served as a United States civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employee of Pan American World Airways or one of its subsidiaries or its affiliates and served overseas as a result of Pan American's contract with Air Transport Command or Naval Air Transport Service during the period of armed conflict, December fourteenth, nineteen hundred forty-one through August fourteenth, nineteen hundred forty-five, and who (1) was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions, or (2) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (3) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, (v) notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, who are members of the reserve components of the armed forces of the United

States who (1) received an honorable discharge or release therefrom under honorable conditions, or (2) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (3) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, but are still members of the reserve components of the armed forces of the United States provided that such members meet all other qualifications under the provisions of this section, or (vi) who shall be considered to have been discharged or released from active military service of the United States under honorable conditions if: (1) the individual served in the active military service of the United States for the period of time such individual was obligated to serve at the time of entry into service; (2) the individual was not discharged or released from such service at the time of completing such period of obligation due to an intervening enlistment or reenlistment; (3) the individual would have been eligible for a discharge or release under conditions other than dishonorable at such time except for such intervening enlistment or reenlistment; and (4) the individual served in the active military service of the United States for a period of at least ten years, provided that such individual meets all other qualifications under the provisions of this section.

§ 13. Paragraph b of subdivision 1 of section 250-a of the military law, as added by chapter 465 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

b. In the event the governor orders the flags of the United States and the State of New York, to be lowered to half staff, in memorial of the death of any service member of the army, navy (including marine corps), air force, **space force,** or coast guard of the United States, or any service member of the army national guard, air national guard, state guard or naval militia, the adjutant general, shall, in cooperation with the office of general services, arrange for the procurement of a flag of the United States and a flag of the State of New York, which were flying over the capitol building at the time such flags were lowered to half staff in compliance with the governor's order. Upon the procurement of such flags, the adjutant general, or [~~his or her~~] **their** representative, shall offer the presentment of such flags, without cost, to the person designated to dispose of the remains of the service member, in whose honor such flags were lowered in memorial.

§ 14. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that the amendments to paragraph (b) of subdivision 5 of section 50 of the civil service law made by section ten of this act shall be subject to the expiration and reversion of such paragraph pursuant to section 2 of part EE of chapter 55 of the laws of 2023, when upon such date the provisions of section eleven of this act shall take effect.