

STATE OF NEW YORK

80

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. PHEFFER AMATO, BURDICK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT to amend the veterans' services law, in relation to establishing a program for the sharing of veteran contact information

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

1 Section 1. Section 7 of the veterans' services law, as amended by
2 chapter 449 of the laws of 2024, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 7. Information on status of veterans receiving assistance. 1. The
4 department shall establish and maintain a program for the sharing of
5 veteran contact information between veteran related programs and the
6 department. Such program shall consist of any veteran related program
7 under any department, division, bureau, board, commission and agency of
8 the state and political subdivisions thereof including, but not limited
9 to: (a) programs that offer property tax exemptions, income tax
10 exemptions, and/or tax credits to veterans under the department of taxa-
11 tion and finance; (b) programs that offer discounts to state parks,
12 historic sites, and recreational facilities to veterans under the office
13 of parks, recreation and historic preservation; (c) programs that deliv-
14 er career services to veterans under the department of labor; (d)
15 programs that facilitate long term services and supports for veteran
16 seniors under the department for the aging; (e) programs that provide
17 financial assistance to veterans with disabilities, programs that facil-
18 itate the creation of affordable housing specifically for veterans, and
19 programs that support veteran home ownership under the department of
20 housing and community renewal; (f) programs that facilitate the creation
21 of affordable housing specifically for veterans under the office of
22 temporary and disability assistance and/or the office of mental health;
23 (g) programs that provide free or reduced fee sporting license and/or
24 privileges to veterans under the department of environmental conserva-

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

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1 tion; and (h) programs that provide postsecondary education benefits to
2 veterans and veteran family members under the higher education services
3 corporation.

4 2. Departments, divisions, bureaus, boards, commissions and agencies
5 of the state and political subdivisions thereof, which provide assist-
6 ance, treatment, counseling, care, supervision or custody in service
7 areas involving health, mental health, family services, criminal justice
8 or employment, including but not limited to the office of addiction
9 services and supports, office of mental health, office of probation and
10 correctional alternatives, office of children and family services,
11 office of temporary and disability assistance, department of health,
12 department of labor, local workforce investment boards, office for
13 people with developmental disabilities, and department of corrections
14 and community supervision, shall request assisted persons to provide
15 information with regard to their veteran status and military experi-
16 ences. Individuals identifying themselves as veterans, including indi-
17 viduals requesting and obtaining a veteran notation on such individual's
18 driver's license or non-driver identification card pursuant to sections
19 four hundred ninety and five hundred two of the vehicle and traffic law,
20 shall be advised that the department of veterans' services and local
21 veterans' service agencies established pursuant to section fourteen of
22 this article provide assistance to veterans regarding benefits under
23 federal and state law. Information regarding veterans status and mili-
24 tary service provided by assisted persons solely to implement this
25 section shall be protected as personal confidential information under
26 article six-A of the public officers law against disclosure of confiden-
27 tial material, and used only to assist in the diagnosis, treatment,
28 assessment and handling of the veteran's problems within the agency
29 requesting such information and in referring the veteran to the depart-
30 ment of veterans' services for information and assistance with regard to
31 benefits and entitlements under federal and state law.

32 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
33 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-
34 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-
35 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
36 completed on or before such effective date.