STATE OF NEW YORK

10398--A

IN SENATE

May 15, 2026

Introduced by Sen. MARTINEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to exempting disabled veterans from certain fees relating to physical modification of a residence to accommodate a disability

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "disabled veteran home modification act".

§ 2. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section 95-b to read as follows:

§ 95-b. Fee exemptions for disabled veterans. 1. For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Veteran" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section one of the veterans' services law and shall also include a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, as defined in section 101 of title 38 of the United States code and (i) 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 (ii) 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.

(b) "Service-connected" means with respect to disability, a determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Department of Defense, that such disability was incurred or aggravated in line of duty in the active military, naval, air, or space service of the United States.

2. (a) The governing body of a city, town or village may adopt a local law, rule or ordinance to waive or reduce any building department fees, including permit fees, plan review or plan examination fees, inspection fees, reinspection fees, or other fees required in order to make improvements or alterations to the primary residence of a veteran with a

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

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service-connected disability if the improvements are required to accommodate a service-connected disability of such veteran. Nothing in this section relieves the obligation of any person to submit to the appropriate city, town or village any applications, forms, or other paperwork required to obtain a building permit. In order to receive a fee reduction or waiver, a veteran must provide proof of veteran status, documentation required by the governing body pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subdivision, and attest to the fact that the improvements to the residence are required to accommodate the veteran's disability.

(b) The governing body of a city, town or village shall specify by local law, rule or ordinance, the documentation required to qualify for a reduction of or waiver from fees under this section, which may include, but is not limited to, a rating decision letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or similar documentation from the United States Department of Defense, and any other information that such city, town or village may require.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of December next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law; provided, however, that no fees paid to a city, town or village prior to such effective date shall be required to be refunded.