STATE OF NEW YORK

8055--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 15, 2025

Introduced by Sen. HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs -- recommitted to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to eligibility for admission to New York state veterans' homes

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

Section 1. Paragraph (h) of subdivision 1 of section 2632 of the public health law, as amended by section 3 of part E of chapter 57 of the laws of 2024, is amended to read as follows:

(h) in the Persian Gulf conflict from the second day of August, nineteen hundred ninety to the end of such conflict including military service in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn or Operation Inherent Resolve and was the recipient of the global war on terrorism expeditionary medal or the Iraq campaign medal or the Afghanistan campaign medal; and who was a resident of the state of New York at the time of entry upon such active duty or who shall have been a resident of this state for six months next preceding the application for admission **or who has an immediate family member who shall have been a resident of this state for six months prior to the date of application for admission, provided that for purposes of this section an immediate family member shall include a spouse, or a birth or adoptive parent, child, sibling, stepparent, stepchild, stepsibling, grandparent and grandchild,** shall be entitled to admission to said home after the approval of the application by the board of visitors, subject to the provisions of this article and to the conditions, limitations and penalties prescribed by the regulations of the department. Any such veteran or dependent, who otherwise fulfills the requirements set forth in this

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

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section, may be admitted directly to the skilled nursing facility or the health related facility provided such veteran or dependent is certified by a physician designated or approved by the department to require the type of care provided by such facilities.

§ 2. Subdivision 6 of section 2632 of the public health law, as amended by chapter 455 of the laws of 2002, is amended to read as follows:

6. The board of visitors shall require an applicant for admission to such home**, or the immediate family member of a veteran applicant for admission, if applicable,** to file an affidavit of New York state residence and the affidavits of at least two householders in and residents of the county in New York state of which the applicant claims at the time of such application to be a resident **or to have an immediate family member who is a resident**; and such affidavits shall, on presentation, be accepted and received as sufficient proof, unless contradicted, of the residence of such applicant **or immediate family member of such applicant** in any actions or proceedings against such county in which such residence of such applicant is material.

§ 3. A veteran as described in subdivision 1 of section 2632 of the public health law, who has a spouse, or a birth or adoptive parent, child, sibling, stepparent, stepchild, stepsibling, grandparent or grandchild, who shall have been a resident of this state for six months prior to the date of application for admission, shall be entitled to admission to the Long Island state veterans home at Stony Brook university, after the approval of the application by the board of visitors or similar authority of such home, subject to the provisions of applicable law and to the conditions, limitations and penalties prescribed by the regulations of the state university of New York.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.