

STATE OF NEW YORK

10508

IN ASSEMBLY

March 6, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. RAJKUMAR -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to creating a state visa bond fund to assist persons in obtaining visas

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

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 94-e to read as follows:

§ 94-e. State visa bond fund. 1. The office for new Americans shall establish a not-for-profit entity charged with the responsibility of raising funds for the administration of this section to assist persons with purchasing bonds for an immigrant seeking a United States visa, the office for new Americans shall:

(a) publicize the availability of such fund;

(b) develop criteria and a selection process for the recipients; and

(c) establish, by rule, procedures for accepting and evaluating applications issuing funds to selected applicants.

2. The fund shall be funded entirely by private contributions, and no state funds shall be appropriated to or used by the fund. Such fund shall be subject to the provisions of articles six and seven and section seventy-four of the public officers law.

§ 2. Paragraphs (o) and (p) of subdivision 5 of section 94-b of the executive law, as added by chapter 625 of the laws of 2024, are amended and a new paragraph (q) is added to read as follows:

(o) Encourage the development of and provide for the establishment of a state military immigrant family legacy program liaison, as provided in section twenty-nine-b of the veterans' services law; ~~and~~

(p) Request individuals seeking assistance from the office answer the following questions: "Have you served in the United States military?" "Has someone in your family served in the United States military?" Individuals identifying themselves or a family member as "intended recipients" of the staff sergeant Alex R. Jimenez New York state military immigrant family legacy program as such term is defined in paragraph (e) of subdivision one of section ~~twenty-nine-b~~ twenty-nine-d of

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

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1 the veterans' services law, shall be advised of such program. In addi-
2 tion, such individuals shall be informed that the department of veter-
3 ans' services and local veterans' service agencies established pursuant
4 to section seventeen of the veterans' services law provide assistance to
5 uniformed service members, veterans and their families regarding bene-
6 fits available under federal and state law. Information regarding veter-
7 ans and military status provided by assisted individuals shall be
8 protected as personal confidential material, and used only to identify
9 such individuals as "intended recipients" of the staff sergeant Alex R.
10 Jimenez New York State military immigrant family legacy program, and to
11 assist such individuals in matters relating to immigration status and
12 citizenship, and in referring such individuals to the department of
13 veterans' services or local veterans' service agencies for information
14 and assistance with regard to benefits and entitlements under federal
15 and state law[~~-~~]; and
16 (q) Create a state visa bond fund to assist persons with purchasing
17 bonds for an immigrant seeking a United States visa.
18 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.