STATE OF NEW YORK

6559--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 6, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BENEDETTO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the veterans' services law, in relation to the establishing a veterans' bill of rights

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

Section 1. The veterans' services law is amended by adding a new section 29-e to read as follows:

§ 29-e. Veterans' bill of rights. 1. The department shall establish, print, publish and distribute a veterans' bill of rights. Such bill of rights shall include the following or substantially similar text:

"VETERANS' BILL OF RIGHTS

You as a veteran have a right:

1. To apply for veterans' benefits;

2. To receive assistance from your local state veterans' service agency and all offices of the New York state department of veterans' services;

3. To receive an explanation of the services and benefits available under federal and New York state laws, rules and regulations;

4. To receive written notice and an explanation of the approval or denial of your application for benefits available under New York state law;

5. To be treated with dignity and respect;

6. To appeal any adverse determination or denial of your application for services or benefits available under New York state law;

7. To expect confidentiality;

8. To receive fair and equal treatment without regard to sex, race, religion, disability, ethnicity, gender identity or national origin; and

9. To be informed of assistance provided to veterans in the state of New York including but not limited to: legal services; educational

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

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opportunities; tax benefits, including real property and personal taxes; and New York state driver's license and non-driver identification cards."

2. The department shall make the veterans' bill of rights available on the department's website.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment, and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.