STATE OF NEW YORK

8475

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 16, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BERGER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT to amend the elder law, the mental hygiene law, and the state finance law, in relation to making technical corrections relating to the title of the commissioner of veterans' services

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

Section 1. Subdivision 15 of section 202 of the elder law, as amended by section 1 of subpart J of part XX of chapter 55 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

15. to periodically, in consultation with the state [~~director~~] commissioner of veterans' services, review the programs operated by the office to ensure that the needs of the state's aging veteran population are being met and to develop improvements to programs to meet such needs;

§ 2. Subdivision (i) of section 19.07 of the mental hygiene law, as amended by section 31-a of part AA of chapter 56 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

(i) The office of [~~alcoholism and substance abuse services~~] addiction services and supports shall periodically, in consultation with the state [~~director~~] commissioner of veterans' services: (1) review the programs operated by the office to ensure that the needs of the state's veterans who served in the U.S. armed forces and who are recovering from alcohol and/or substance abuse are being met and to develop improvements to programs to meet such needs; and (2) in collaboration with the state [~~director~~] commissioner of veterans' services and the commissioner of the office of mental health, review and make recommendations to improve programs that provide treatment, rehabilitation, relapse prevention, and recovery services to veterans who have served in a combat theatre or combat zone of operations and have a co-occurring mental health and alcoholism or substance abuse disorder.

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

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§ 3. Subdivisions 1 and 5 of section 99-v of the state finance law, as amended by section 17 of part AA of chapter 56 of the laws of 2019, are amended to read as follows:

1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the commissioner of taxation and finance, the New York state [~~director~~] **commissioner** of veterans' services and the comptroller, a special fund to be known as the "homeless veterans assistance fund".

5. Moneys shall be paid out of the fund on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by the New York state [~~director~~] **commissioner** of veterans' services. Any interest received by the comptroller on moneys on deposit in the homeless veterans assistance fund shall be retained in and become part of such fund.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.