STATE OF NEW YORK

10370

IN SENATE

May 15, 2026

Introduced by Sen. RHOADS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

AN ACT to amend the civil service law, in relation to creating a special hiring class for first responders who suffered a disability as a result of the September eleventh, two thousand one terrorist attacks

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

Section 1. The civil service law is amended by adding a new section 55-d to read as follows:

§ 55-d. Employment of first responders who suffered a service rated disability related to the September eleventh, two thousand one terrorist attacks. 1. The commission may determine up to five hundred positions with duties such as can be performed by first responders who performed such first responder's duties in the area of the September eleventh, two thousand one terrorist attacks, otherwise known as the exposure zone, and suffered a service rated disability as a result of being exposed to the toxins in the weeks and months thereafter and who are found otherwise qualified to perform satisfactorily the duties of any such position. Positions designated to be filled pursuant to this section may be filled on a full-time or part-time basis. Upon such determination, said positions shall be classified in the noncompetitive class, by persons who establish by appropriate documentary evidence that such first responder suffered a service rated disability as a result of being exposed to toxins in the weeks and months thereafter in the area, otherwise known as the exposure zone, of the September eleventh, two thousand one terrorist attacks. The number of persons appointed pursuant to this section shall not exceed five hundred.

2. Those employees hired under subdivision one of this section, shall be afforded the same opportunity to take promotional examinations as provided to employees in the competitive class.

3. When posting jobs that fall under the provisions of this section, all state agencies shall prominently identify on such posting that such job is "55-d Eligible".

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

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4. For the purposes of this section, the term "exposure zone" shall mean the area in Manhattan south of the line that runs along Canal Street from the Hudson River to the intersection of Canal Street and East Broadway, north on East Broadway to Clinton Street, and east on Clinton Street to the East River; and any area related to or along the routes of debris removal, such as barges and the Fresh Kills landfill.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.