STATE OF NEW YORK

10398

IN SENATE

May 15, 2026

Introduced by Sen. MARTINEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to exempting disabled veterans from certain fees relating to physical modification of a residence to accommodate a disability

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "disabled veteran home modification act".

§ 2. Legislative findings and purposes. (a) The legislature finds that:

(1) Disabled veterans are being charged fees for home modifications in order to accommodate a disability, including permit fees, plan review fees, inspection fees, reinspection fees, or other fees.

(2) Such fees can cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars, adding a financial burden for disabled veterans looking to make their homes more accessible.

(b) The Legislature's purposes in promulgating this act are to further the important and compelling state interests of:

(1) providing that a veteran with a disability, or the veteran's caregiver, shall not be charged any fees for improvements to the residence of the veteran with a disability, if the improvements are required to accommodate a disability;

(2) ensuring that disabled veterans can comfortably live in their homes;

(3) ensuring that disabled veterans are not burdened by financial barriers when modifying their homes to accommodate a disability; and

(4) reintegrating veterans into their communities and a civilian lifestyle.

§ 3. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section 95-b to read as follows:

§ 95-b. Fee exemptions for disabled veterans. 1. For the purposes of this section:

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

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(a) "Veteran" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section one of the veterans' services law.

(b) "Veteran with a disability" means a veteran who:

(i) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual;

(ii) has a record of such an impairment; or

(iii) is regarded as having such an impairment.

2. (a) A veteran with a disability or the veteran's caregiver shall not be charged any building department fees, including permit fees, plan review or plan examination fees, inspection fees, reinspection fees, or other fees required in order to make improvements or alternations to the residence of the veteran with a disability if the improvements are required to accommodate a disability of the veteran. Nothing in this section relieves the obligation of any person to submit to the appropriate city, town or village any applications, forms, or other paperwork required to obtain a building permit. A veteran or caregiver must provide proof of veteran status and attest to the fact that the improvements to the residence are required to accommodate the veteran's disability.

(b) The governing body of a city, town or village shall specify by local law, rule or ordinance, the documentation required to qualify for exemption from fees under this section.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law; provided, however, that no fees paid to a city, town or village prior to such effective date shall be required to be refunded.