STATE OF NEW YORK

7708

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 1, 2025

Introduced by Sen. FERNANDEZ -- 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 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.

LBD09703-02-5

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.