STATE OF NEW YORK

7786--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 6, 2025

Introduced by Sen. ADDABBO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military 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 availability of information on home care services

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

Section 1. Section 4 of the veterans' services law is amended by adding a new subdivision 40 to read as follows:

40. To collaborate with relevant offices of the federal department of veterans affairs, the state department of health and the state office for the aging to disseminate educational resources to veterans and their families regarding the availability of and accessibility to home and community-based services including but not limited to the federal Veteran-Directed Home and Community Based Services program(VD-HCBS). Such resources may include development of dedicated websites and weblinks to such resources. Such materials may also be made available in printed form. Any such information shall be reviewed and updated annually. To effectuate the provisions of this subdivision, the department may also consult with or seek input from various home care stakeholders, including home care providers and professional associations, with expertise or experience with serving veterans and their families.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 15 of the veterans' services law, as amended by chapter 445 of the laws of 2024, is amended to read as follows:

1. A local veterans' service agency shall have power under the direction of the state veterans' service agency, and it shall be its duty to inform military and naval authorities of the United States and assist members of the uniformed services and veterans, who are residents of this state, and their families, in relation to (1) matters pertaining to

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

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educational training and retraining services and facilities, (2) health, medical and rehabilitation services and facilities, (3) provisions of federal, state and local laws and regulations affording special rights and privileges to members of the uniformed services and veterans and their families, (4) employment and re-employment services, (5) the process of submitting an application for a discharge upgrade to the discharge upgrade advisory board, and (6) other matters of similar, related or appropriate nature. The local veterans' service agency may also assist families of members of the reserve components of the uniformed services and the organized militia ordered into active duty to ensure that they are made aware of and are receiving all appropriate support available to them and are placed in contact with the agencies responsible for such support, including, but not limited to, the division of military and naval affairs and other state agencies responsible for providing such support. **The local veterans' service agency may also post on its website and make available at its office location educational materials relating to the availability of and accessibility to home and community-based services that have been developed by the department pursuant to subdivision forty of section four of this article.** The local veterans' service agency also shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the state commissioner.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.