

Review of 2015 Laws Enacted Affecting New York State Veterans and Their Families

1. *Burial of Indigent Veterans*

CHAPTER 579 Laws of 2015

(A.7867-A/S. 5752-A DenDekker/Crocci)

For any veteran who dies without sufficient funds, insurance or a designated next of kin, the county of residence or City of New York may request a congressional chartered veterans' organization to conduct funeral and burial services. The State under this measure, shall reimburse such organizations for such expenses, at a maximum of \$2,000, exclusive of state and federal expenses which are already covered.

Effective Date: 90 days after enactment

2. *Admission to the New York State Veterans Nursing Home Program*

CHAPTER 414 of the Laws of 2015

(A. 7229-A/S.305-A DenDekker/Espallat)

This bill would expand the list of veterans eligible for admission to the New York State Veterans' Home program under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health. This bill would include veterans who served in Bosnia and Herzegovina and veterans who exposed to radiation during military service in "radiation-risk activity." This bill also would clarify that veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn and Operation Inherent Resolve and were the recipient of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, or the Afghanistan Campaign Medal are eligible for admission.

Effective Date: 30 days after enactment

3. *Vietnam Veterans Benevolent Orders*

CHAPTER 400 of the Laws of 2015

(A.6101/S.4283 Kaminsky/Murphy)

Under this proposal the Vietnam Veterans of America would be declared a "benevolent orders," thus granting such organization various benefits available to specified veterans' organizations.

Effective Date: Immediately

4. *Increase Veterans Exemptions*

CHAPTER 381 of the Laws of 2015

(A6223-A/S4391-A Thiele/Lavalle)

This measure creates an additional local option to increase the maximum exemptions allowed under the alternative veterans' exemptions and the Cold War veterans' exemption.

This creates three new categories of higher exemptions available to municipalities: \$39,000; \$26,000 and \$130,000; \$42,000; \$28,000 and \$140,000 and \$45,000; \$30,000 and \$150,000. Also seven new categories of higher exemptions would be available to high-appreciation municipalities: \$57,000; \$38,000 and \$190,000; \$60,000; \$40,000 and \$200,000; \$63,000; \$42,000 and \$210,000; \$66,000; \$44,000 and \$220,000; \$69,000; \$46,000 and \$230,000; \$72,000; \$48,000 and \$240,000 and \$75,000; \$50,000 and \$250,000.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect January 2, 2016; provided that: 1. Sections one and two of this act shall apply on taxable status dates occurring on or after such date; and 2. The increase in the maximum allowable exemption amount shall apply only to local laws adopted on or after such a date.

5. *Veteran-Owned Small Business Account*

CHAPTER 523 Laws of 2015

(A.4487-A/S656-A Ramos/Kennedy)

This bill would require the Division of Veterans' Affairs to include an accounting of the number of veteran-owned small businesses in the State of New York in its annual report to the Governor and the member of the Legislature. This information would detail both small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and service disabled veteran-owned business enterprises.

Effective Date: 90 days after enactment

6. *Military Service Exams*

New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs Departmental

CHAPTER 404 of the Laws of 2015

A.7824/S4852 Abbate/Croci

This bill would extend the option of a make-up examination to all service members who miss a New York State Civil Service exam due to a call to any form of active duty military service.

7. *Elimination of "Inmate" When Referring to Residents of Veterans Health Administration Hospitals for Veterans*

CHAPTER 375 Laws of 2015

A.3601/S4329 Dinowitz/Funke

This measure modifies the Election law to correct the designation of veterans in absentee voting procedures to read as a "resident or patient of a veteran's health administration hospital," which is more aptly describes the situation of these individuals upon requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

8. *Prohibition of Additional Fee for Veteran's Distinguished Mark*

CHAPTER 149 of the Laws of 2015

A.6557/S1695 Jean-Pierre/Marchione

This measure ensures that no veteran pays a fee for the inclusion of a "veteran" notation on his or her driver's license or non-driver identification (NDID) card. Section two of this bill directs the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to begin issuing refunds of fees already paid by applicants solely for adding this distinguished mark.

9. *Eliminating Stigma Attached to Mental Illness*

CHAPTER 422 of the Laws of 2015

A.833-A/S.632-A Gunther/Carlucci

This measure establishes a gift for eliminating the stigma relating to mental illness on personal income tax returns. Monies to be made available to Office of Mental Health for providing grants to organizations dedicated to eliminating the stigma to mental illness.

Effective Date: Immediately

10. *Commercial Food Fish Licenses for Veterans*

CHAPTER 484 of the Laws of 2015

(A.8085-A/S4521-A Benedetto/Croci)

Authorizes the Commissioner of DEC to waive the income eligibility requirements pursuant to section 13-0328 of the environmental conservation law for veterans' applicants if they earned a honorable or general discharge.