

2016 Legislation Enacted Benefitting Veterans and Their Families

The following legislation was approved and signed into New York State Law during the 2016 Legislative Session.

Originated in the Veterans' Committee:

Technical Amendment

Chapter 381 of the Laws of 2015

A.9168/S6385-A Thiele/Lavall

This bill provides a technical amendment to ensure that the Chapter accomplishes its intended goal of creating a real property tax exemption, at local option, to veterans eligible for the alternative veterans' exemption. **(Signed April 8, 2016)**

Burial of Veterans

Chapter 29 of the Laws of 2016

A.9169/S.6425 DenDekker/Croci

This bill enacts a chapter amendment to Chapter 579 of the Laws of 2015 to require the county or city of New York to promote the diversity of congressionally chartered veterans organizations selected to engage the services of a funeral firm to conduct the funeral and burial services of indigent veterans and to allow such organizations to refuse, if it is financially unable to front the cost prior to reimbursement. **(Signed April 8, 2016)**

Health Care Options Information for Veterans

Chapter 64 of the Laws of 2016

A.7967-B/S.3137-C DenDekker/Croci

The bill would require the Division of Veterans' Affairs to maintain an annually updated fact sheet entitled "Information for Veterans Concerning Health Care Options" on their webpage containing contact information for all veterans' integrated service networks located within the state and for the U.S. Veterans Health Administration, including VA medical centers and clinics. It would also require hospitals to provide veteran patients with said fact sheets. **(Signed June 8, 2016)**

Expansion of the Cold War Veterans Exemption

Chapter 253 of the Laws of 2016

A.3379-A/S.2210B Cusick/Larkin

This bill would expand the Cold War Veterans' Exemption to taxes levied by local school districts. It would allow those districts to conduct a public hearing regarding the tax exemption and after a public hearing, the governing body of the school district may pass a resolution to provide the exemption. Qualified veterans living within the school district that has passed the resolution would have the same tax exemption from their school districts as they receive from their local tax districts. **(Signed August 19, 2016)**

Free Mobile APP for Veterans

Chapter 358 of the Laws of 2016

A.10258/S7894 Blake/Amedore

The purpose of this bill is to require the Division of Veterans' Affairs to establish, operate and maintain a free mobile application. *(Signed September 29, 2016)*

Agent Orange Extender
Chapter 75 of the Laws of 2016
A.8699/S7087 Hunter/Larkin

This measure extends to June 15, 2018, the deadline for filing suits against the producers of Agent Orange for members of the U.S. Armed Forces in Indo-China from December 22, 1961, through May 7, 1975, whose injury or death was caused by the contact with Agent Orange. *(Signed June 30, 2016)*

New York City Council Included Veterans Exemptions
Chapter 332 of the Laws of 2016
A.9688/S.7121 Cusick/Lanza

This bill would allow the local legislative body of a city with a population of one million or more, after holding public hearings, to adopt a local law to grant eligible veterans an exemption from their school taxes. *(Signed September 28, 2016)*

Real Property Tax Exemption for Certain Veterans
Chapter 476 of the Laws of 2016
A.6140-A/S.4842-A Lavine/Martins

The bill amends section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law in relation to exempting veteran who served on active duty under Executive Order 11519 and as reserves of the United States Armed Forces.

Back ground: On March 23, 1970, the President of the United States declared a state of national emergency and directed the Secretary of Defense to call reserves of the armed forces to active duty to assist the Postmaster General in restoring and maintaining which was postal service. Under Executive Order 11519, 35 Federal Reg. 5003 (1970, the call up was designated as Operation Graphic Hand included members and units of the New York Army and New York Air National Guard. *(Signed November 28, 2016)*

Inquiring into Past Military Service On Applications for Public Welfare
Chapter 407 of the Laws of 201
A.8641-B/S.7983-B Hevesi/Avella

The purpose of this **local option bill** is to direct the local social services districts and not-for-profit corporations to ask their clients on their applications by check-off if they or a family member served in the United States military and forward the contact information to the Division of Veterans' Affairs. **(Signed November 4, 2016)**

Originated in Consumers Affairs and Protection
Termination Without Penalty of Certain Service Contracts
Chapter 164 of the Laws of 2016
A.7717-A/S4786-A DenDekker/Funke

Allows active duty service members under certain conditions to cancel contracts without penalty with telecommunications service providers, internet service providers, health clubs, health spas, or television

service providers when they receive their military orders; requires service members include a copy of their orders when providing written notice. **(July 21, 2016)**

Originated in Governmental Employees Committee

Veterans Military Buyback

Chapter 41 of the Laws of 2016 (Signed May 31, 2016)

A.9531/S7160 Paulin/Larkin

To extend the Military Service Credit Law of 2000 to all veterans who have served honorably in the United States military. An appropriation of \$24,800,000 was included in the legislation. **(Signed May 31, 2016)**

Originated in Governmental Operations Committee

World War I Temporary Commission

Chapter 486 Laws of 2016

A.9524/S.6856-A DenDekker/Martins

Creates a temporary New York State World War I 100th Anniversary commemoration commission. A 2014 resolution of the Department of New York American Legion. **(Signed November 28, 2016)**

Originated in the Higher Education Committee

Military Spouses

Chapter 299 of the Laws of 2016

A.4394-A/S.2947-A Ortiz/Ritchie; Passed Both Houses

This bill provides for expedited licensing of military spouses with out-of-state professional licenses in equivalent occupations. This measure relates only to professions which are licensed through the Department of Education.

In addition to the expedited review of the application, an applicant who has a license in good standing from another state shall be granted a temporary practice permit for a 6 month period, after which time, if secure direct source verification of equivalency is obtained, the full license shall be granted to the applicant. An additional 6 month period may be requested if necessary. The bill provides that the initial licensure fee for applications submitted by spouses of active duty military personnel will be reduced by half of the normal fee. **(Signed September 9, 2016)**

Originated in the Mental Health Committee

Eligibility for Dependents of Military Service members Disability Services

Chapter 488 of the Laws of 2016

A.10461-A/S.6915-B Englebright/Ortt

To allow for a dependent of a military service member who is a legal resident of the state, previously determined to be eligible for developmental disability services to retain eligibility for those services as-long-as they remain a legal resident of the state. This bill also allows a dependent who resides out-of-state to be placed on the waiting list for services if they left the state due to the military service member's military assignment. **(Signed November 28, 2016)**

Originated in the Ways and Means Committee

Memorial Poppy Flowers

Chapter 478 of the Laws of 2016

A.8480/S.4986 Schimel/Martins

This bill exempts from sales taxes the property manufactured and sold by a veteran for the benefit of a veteran's service organization. The poppy flower has long been a symbol used for honoring American soldiers who died bravely fighting for their country. In 1922, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) conducted its first poppy distribution and in 1923 the VFW decided, that the poppies would be assembled by disabled and needy veterans, who would be paid for their work to provide them with financial assistance and this tradition has endured with members of the VFW and other veterans' organizations.

(Signed November 28, 2016)

Tax Gifts for State Veterans' Homes

Chapter 432 Laws of 2016

A.9315-A/S.6577-A Miller/Murphy

Establishes business franchise and personal income tax gifts for the support of state veterans' homes, establishes the "veterans' home assistance fund" as a repository of revenue from such gifts, grants and bequests thereto; requires annual state appropriations to be used in support of the five veterans homes in the state. Monies of the fund shall be expended only for the care and maintenance of veterans' homes operated by agencies of the state and shall be disbursed equally each state fiscal year to each of the five state veterans' homes. ***(Signed November 14, 2016)***

Collection Period After Assessment

Chapter 411 of the Laws of 2016

A.9191/S.6465 Rosenthal/Golden

Relates to collection period after assessment not being extended as-a-result of hospitalization for members of the armed forces, astronauts and victims of certain terrorist attacks. This bill would conform the Tax Law to recently enacted Internal Revenue Code. On December 18, 2015, the President signed legislation that was entitled the Wounded Warrior Tax Equity Act, which eliminated the time to collect tax arrears from members of the armed forces. ***(Signed November 4, 2016)***

VETOED

Performance of Duty Disability Retirement For Airport Firefighters at Division of Military and Naval Affairs

A.10614/S.8071 Rules (Abbate)/Murphy

This bill amends the Retirement and Social Security Law to create a performance of duty disability retirement for airport firefighters employed by the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) who contract various ailments of the heart, lung, or cancer and can no longer perform their duty.

Airport fire-fighting personnel serve a vital role for DMNA and general public safety for the individual communities in which DMNA airports are located. These employees are fully trained firefighters who are exposed to the same risks and stress that fire districts employees are exposed to and in fact are responsible for providing support to the fire districts in which they are located.

(Veto #261, November 28, 2016)

