A BUDGET BILL submitted by the Governor
in accordance with Article VII of the Constitution

AN ACT to amend the election law, the executive law, the state
finance law, the labor law, the vehicle and traffic law,
the environmental conservation law, the public health law,
the general municipal law, the military law, the domestic
relations law, the education law, the mental hygiene law,
the elder law, the social services law, the not-for-profit
corporation law, the real property tax law, chapter 784 of
the laws of 1951, constituting the New York state defense
emergency act of 1951, the administrative code of the city
of New York, and the New York city charter, in relation to
changing the name of the New York state division of veter-
ans' affairs to the New York state division of veterans'
services; and to amend the executive law, in relation to
changing the name of the veterans' affairs commission to
the veterans' services commission (Part );

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

PART __

Section 1. The opening paragraph of section 5-211 of the election law,
as amended by chapter 265 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as
follows:

Each agency designated as a participating agency under the provisions
of this section shall implement and administer a program of distribution
of voter registration forms pursuant to the provisions of this section.
The following offices which provide public assistance and/or provide
state funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons
with disabilities are hereby designated as voter registration agencies:
Designated as the state agencies which provide public assistance are the
office of children and family services, the office of temporary and
disability assistance and the department of health. Also designated as public assistance agencies are all agencies of local government that provide such assistance. Designated as state agencies that provide programs primarily engaged in providing services to people with disabilities are the department of labor, office for the aging, division of veterans' [affairs] services, office of mental health, office of vocational and educational services for individuals with disabilities, commission on quality of care for the mentally disabled, office of mental retardation and developmental disabilities, commission for the blind, office of alcoholism and substance abuse services, the office of the advocate for the disabled and all offices which administer programs established or funded by such agencies. Additional state agencies designated as voter registration offices are the department of state and the division of workers' compensation. Such agencies shall be required to offer voter registration forms to persons upon initial application for services, renewal or recertification for services and change of address relating to such services. Such agencies shall also be responsible for providing assistance to applicants in completing voter registration forms, receiving and transmitting the completed application form from all applicants who wish to have such form transmitted to the appropriate board of elections. The state board of elections shall, together with representatives of the department of defense, develop and implement procedures for including recruitment offices of the armed forces of the United States as voter registration offices when such offices are so designated by federal law. The state board shall also make request of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service to include applications for registration by mail with any materials which are given to new citizens. All institutions of the state university of New York
and the city university of New York, shall, at the beginning of the
school year, and again in January of a year in which the president of
the United States is to be elected, provide an application for registra-
tion to each student in each such institution. The state board of
elections may, by regulation, grant a waiver from any or all of the
requirements of this section to any office or program of an agency, if
it determines that it is not feasible for such office or program to
administer such requirement.

§ 2. Subdivision 8 of section 31 of the executive law, as amended by
section 106 of subpart B of part C of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is
amended to read as follows:

8. The division of veterans' [affairs] services.

§ 2-a. Paragraph (e) of subdivision 1 of section 169 of the executive
law, as amended by section 9 of part A of chapter 60 of the laws of
2012, is amended to read as follows:

(e) chairman of state athletic commission, director of the office of
victim services, chairman of human rights appeal board, chairman of the
industrial board of appeals, chairman of the state commission of
correction, members of the board of parole, member-chairman of unemploy-
ment insurance appeal board, director of veterans' [affairs] services,
and vice-chairman of the workers' compensation board;

§ 3. Subdivision 1 of section 191 of the executive law, as added by
chapter 285 of the laws of 1995, is amended to read as follows:

1. There is hereby established within the division of military and
naval affairs a temporary advisory committee on the restoration and
display of New York state's military battle flags (hereinafter referred
to as the "committee"). The committee shall have thirteen members as
follows: the adjutant general, the director of the New York state mili-
tary heritage museum, the commissioners of education and parks, recreation and historic preservation and the director of the division of veterans' [affairs] services, or their designated representatives, two members appointed each by the governor, speaker of the assembly and majority leader of the senate and one member each appointed by the minority leaders of the senate and assembly and shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Appointed members shall include individuals with experience in restoration of historical memorabilia, expertise in military history, or a background in historical restoration or fine arts conservation. No appointed member shall be a member of the executive, legislative or judicial branch of the state government at the time of his/her appointment. The advisory committee shall meet at least four times a year. No members shall receive any compensation, but members who are not state officials may receive actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

§ 4. The article heading of article 17 of the executive law is amended to read as follows:

VETERANS' [AFFAIRS] SERVICES

§ 5. Subdivisions 1 and 2 of section 350 of the executive law are amended to read as follows:

1. The term "division" means the division of veterans' [affairs] services.

2. The term "state director" means the New York state director of veterans' [affairs] services.

§ 6. Section 351 of the executive law is amended to read as follows:

§ 351. Division of veterans' [affairs] services. There is hereby created in the executive department a division of veterans' [affairs] services. The head of such division shall be the New York state direc-
tor of veterans' [affairs] services who shall be a veteran. He shall be
appointed by the governor and shall hold office during his pleasure.
Such state director shall receive an annual salary to be fixed by the
governor within the limitation provided by law. He shall also be enti-
tled to receive his expenses actually and necessarily incurred by him in
the performance of his duties. The state director, with the approval of
the governor, may establish such bureaus within the division as are
necessary and appropriate to carrying out its functions and may consol-
idate or abolish such bureaus. The state director may appoint such offi-
cers, consultants, clerks and other employees and agents as he may deem
necessary, fix their compensation within the limitation provided by law,
and prescribe their duties.

§ 7. The section heading and subdivisions 1 and 5 of section 352 of
the executive law, as amended by chapter 501 of the laws of 1993, are
amended to read as follows:
Veterans' [affairs] services commission. 1. There shall be in the
division a veterans' [affairs] services commission, which shall consist
of the members and the ex officio members provided for in this section.
5. The commission shall have power, and it shall be its duty, to
assist the state director in the formulation of policies affecting
veterans and in the coordination of all operations of state agencies
relating to veterans' [affairs] services.

§ 8. Section 354-a of the executive law, as amended by section 95 of
subpart B of part C of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is amended to
read as follows:
§ 354-a. Information on status of veterans receiving assistance.
Departments, divisions, bureaus, boards, commissions and agencies of the
state and political subdivisions thereof, which provide assistance,
treatment, counseling, care, supervision or custody in service areas involving health, mental health, family services, criminal justice or employment, including but not limited to the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services, office of mental health, office of probation and correctional alternatives, office of children and family services, office of temporary and disability assistance, department of health, department of labor, local workforce investment boards, office for people with developmental disabilities, and department of corrections and community supervision, shall request assisted persons to provide information with regard to their veteran status and military experiences. Individuals identifying themselves as veterans shall be advised that the division of veterans' [affairs] services and local veterans' service agencies established pursuant to section three hundred fifty-seven of this article provide assistance to veterans regarding benefits under federal and state law. Information regarding veterans' status and military service provided by assisted persons solely to implement this section shall be protected as personal confidential information under article six-A of the public officers law against disclosure of confidential material, and used only to assist in the diagnosis, treatment, assessment and handling of the veteran's problems within the agency requesting such information and in referring the veteran to the division of veterans' [affairs] services for information and assistance with regard to benefits and entitlements under federal and state law.

§ 9. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 361-b of the executive law, as amended by chapter 515 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

(b) "Division" shall mean the state division of veterans' [affairs] services.
§ 10. Section 362 of the executive law, as amended by chapter 251 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

§ 362. Creation of annuity. 1. Payment to veterans. a. Any veteran as defined in this article who has been or is hereafter classified by the New York State commission for the visually handicapped as a blind person as defined in section three of chapter four hundred fifteen of the laws of nineteen hundred thirteen, as amended, and continues to be a blind person within the meaning of that section, shall, upon application to the director of the division of veterans' services, be paid out of the treasury of the state for such term as such veteran shall be entitled thereto under the provisions of this article, the sum of one thousand dollars annually, plus any applicable annual adjustment, as provided in this section.

b. The entitlement of any veteran to receive the annuity herein provided shall terminate upon his or her ceasing to continue to be a resident of and domiciled in the state, but such entitlement may be reinstated upon application to the director of veterans' services, if such veteran shall thereafter resume his or her residence and domicile in the state.

c. The effective date of an award of the annuity to a veteran shall be the date of receipt of the application therefor by the director of veterans' services, except that if the application is denied but is granted at a later date upon an application for reconsideration based upon new evidence, the effective date of the award of the annuity to a veteran shall be the date of receipt of the application for reconsideration by the director of veterans' services.

2. Payment to widows and widowers of blind veterans. a. The unremarried spouse of a veteran who heretofore has died or the unremarried
spouse of a veteran dying hereafter, such veteran being at the time of
her or his death a recipient of, or eligible for, the benefits above
provided, shall, upon application to the director of veterans' services, also be paid out of the treasury of the state the sum of one
thousand dollars annually, plus any applicable annual adjustment, for
such term as such unremarried spouse shall be entitled thereto under the
provisions of this article.

b. The entitlement of any widow or widower to receive the annuity
herein provided shall terminate upon her or his death or re-marriage or
upon her or his ceasing to continue to be a resident of and domiciled in
the state of New York, but such entitlement may be reinstated upon
application to the director of veterans' services, if such
widow or widower shall thereafter resume her or his residence and domi-
cile in the state.

c. The effective date of an award of the annuity to a widow or widower
shall be the day after the date of death of the veteran if the applica-
tion therefor is received within one year from such date of death. If
the application is received after the expiration of the first year
following the date of the death of the veteran, the effective date of an
award of the annuity to a widow or widower shall be the date of receipt
of the application by the director of veterans' services. If
an application is denied but is granted at a later date upon an applica-
tion for reconsideration based upon new evidence, the effective date of
the award of the annuity to a widow or widower shall be the date of
receipt of the application for reconsideration by the director of veter-
ans' services.

3. Annual adjustment. Commencing in the year two thousand five, and
for each year thereafter, the amount of any annuity payable under this
section shall be the same amount as the annuity payable in the preceding
year plus a percentage adjustment equal to the annual percentage
increase, if any, for compensation and pension benefits administered by
the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs in the previous year.
Such percentage increase shall be rounded up to the next highest one-
ten thousand of one percent and shall not be less than one percent nor more
than four percent. Commencing in the year two thousand five, the direc-
tor of veterans' [affairs] services, not later than February first of
each year, shall publish by any reasonable means the amount of the annu-
ity as adjusted payable under this section.

§ 10-a. Subdivisions 1 and 2 of section 363 of the executive law,
subdivision 1 as added by chapter 424 of the laws of 1961, and subdivi-
sion 2 as amended by chapter 1052 of the laws of 1971, are amended to
read as follows:

1. The evidence of such service, blindness, residence and domicile, or
of such marriage, widowhood, residence and domicile in each case shall
be furnished in the manner and form prescribed by the director of veter-
ans' [affairs] services who shall examine the same.

2. Upon being satisfied that such service was performed, that other
facts and statements in the application of such veteran or widow are
ture and that the said veteran has been classified by the New York state
commission for the visually handicapped as a blind person, where such
veteran is not receiving or not entitled to receive a benefit from any
existing retirement system to which the state is a contributor, unless
such veteran shall have become disabled by reason of loss of sight,
while engaged in employment entitling him to receive a benefit from any
existing retirement system to which the state is a contributor, and as a
result of such disability has retired from such employment and is
receiving or is entitled to receive a benefit from such retirement system the director of veterans' [affairs] services shall certify to the state comptroller the name and address of such veteran or widow.

§ 10-b. Subdivisions 3 and 5 of section 364 of the executive law, subdivision 3 as added by chapter 424 of the laws of 1961, and subdivision 5 as amended by chapter 115 of the laws of 1981, are amended to read as follows:

3. Where any veteran is disqualified for the annuity for any period solely by reason of the provisions of subdivision two of this section, the director of veterans' [affairs] services shall pay to his [wife] or her spouse, if any, the annuity which such veteran would receive for that period but for said subdivision two.

5. Where payment of the annuity as hereinbefore authorized is to be made to a mentally incompetent person or a conservatee, such payment may be authorized by the director of veterans' [affairs] services of the state to be paid only to a duly qualified court-appointed committee or conservator, legally vested with the care of such incompetent's person or property or of such conservatee's property, except that in the case of an incompetent annuitant for whom a committee has not been appointed or a person under a substantial impairment [within the meaning of the conservatorship provisions of article seventy-seven of the mental hygiene law] for whom a conservator has not been appointed and who is hospitalized in a United States veterans' administration hospital or in a hospital under the jurisdiction of the state of New York, the director of veterans' [affairs] services of the state may in his discretion certify payment of the annuity, as hereinbefore authorized, to the manager of such veterans' administration hospital or to the director of
such state hospital for the account of the said incompetent or substantially impaired annuitant.

§ 11. The third undesignated paragraph of subdivision 1 and the opening paragraphs of paragraphs (a) and (b), paragraph (g), the opening paragraph and clause 6 of subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (h) of subdivision 2 of section 365 of the executive law, as added by section 5 of part W of chapter 57 of the laws of 2013, are amended to read as follows:

The legislature additionally finds and determines that it is therefore necessary to provide for the construction and establishment of one or more New York state veterans cemeteries, and that to thereafter, provide for the expansion, improvement, support, operation, maintenance and the provision of perpetual care of all such cemeteries so constructed and established. The legislature also finds and determines that it is appropriate to have the responsibility for the construction, establishment, expansion, improvement, support, operation, maintenance and the provision of perpetual care for veterans cemeteries in this state, to be under the oversight and direction of the state division of veterans [affairs] services, and its director, individually, and as chair of the management board, for each such veterans cemetery so constructed and established.

The division, in cooperation with the United States department of veterans affairs, and in consultation with, and upon the support of the department of state division of cemeteries, is hereby directed to conduct an investigation and study on the issue of the construction and establishment of the first New York state [veterans] veterans' cemetery. Such investigation and study shall include, but not be limited to:
Prior to the commencement of the investigation and study pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the director of the division of veterans' [affairs] services, the director of the division of the budget, the director of the department of state's division of cemeteries, and the office of the state comptroller must certify to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the chair of the senate finance committee and the chair of the assembly ways and means committee that the veterans remembrance and cemetery maintenance and operation fund, created pursuant to section ninety-seven- [mmmm] of the state finance law, contains moneys sufficient, adjusted to reflect projected future inflation, to fund the operation, maintenance and the provision of perpetual care of a state veterans' cemetery for a period of not less than fifteen years, provided that such amount shall not include any amount that shall be reimbursed or contributed to the cemetery from the government of the United States or any amount that would be recoverable by the cemetery pursuant to a charge of fee for the provision of a grave site for a non-veteran spouse or family member. In making such a certification, the director of the division of veterans' [affairs] services, the director of the division of the budget, the director of the department of state's division of cemeteries, and the office of the state comptroller shall consider, but are not limited to, the following factors:

(g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the division of veterans' [affairs] services to commence an investigation and study pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision, issuing a request for proposals pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subdivision, selecting a site for the first New York state [veterans] cemetery pursuant to paragraph (d) of this subdivision, or submitting any application for
funding from the government of the United States in accordance with the
grant requirements specified in section 2408 of title 38 of the United
States code, part 30 of title 38 of the code of federal regulations, and
other relevant federal statutes or regulations, for the purpose of seek-
ing funds to support the construction, establishment, expansion,
 improvement, support, operation, maintenance and the provision of
perpetual care of New York state's first veterans' cemetery
pursuant to paragraph (e) of this subdivision until the funds in the
veterans remembrance and cemetery maintenance and operation fund have
been certified pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subdivision.

Guidelines and standards for the request for proposals for any local
government desiring to have the first state veterans' cemetery located within its political subdivision, pursuant to paragraph (b)
of this subdivision, including, but not limited to:

(6) The requirement that a response shall require the local government
to agree to authorize the state of New York, in the event that the local
government fails to perform its obligations under the contract with the
state of New York, that the state director of the division of veterans'
services shall certify to the comptroller any unpaid amounts
or any amounts necessary for the state to assume the obligations which
the local government failed to perform, and the comptroller shall, to
the extent not otherwise prohibited by law, withhold such amount from
any state aid or other amount payable to such local government; to the
extent that sufficient funds are not available for such withholding, the
state may pursue any and all available legal remedies to enforce the
terms of the contract entered into between the state and a local govern-
ment pursuant to this subdivision; and
§ 12. Subdivision 3 of section 369-d of the executive law, as added by chapter 557 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3. establish and maintain, together with the director of the division of veterans' services, a program to educate separating service members as to the benefits available to veterans under this article.

§ 13. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 4 of section 369-i of the executive law, as added by chapter 22 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Evaluate and assess availability of firms for the purpose of increasing participation of such firms in state contracting in consultation with relevant state entities including, but not limited to, the New York state division of veterans' services.

§ 14. Subdivision 1 of section 643 of the executive law, as amended by section 107 of subpart B of part C of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

1. As used in this section, "crime victim-related agency" means any agency of state government which provides services to or deals directly with crime victims, including (a) the office of children and family services, the office for the aging, the division of veterans' services, the office of probation and correctional alternatives, the department of corrections and community supervision, the office of victim services, the department of motor vehicles, the office of vocational rehabilitation, the workers' compensation board, the department of health, the division of criminal justice services, the office of mental health, every transportation authority and the division of state police, and (b) any other agency so designated by the governor within ninety days of the effective date of this section.
§ 15. Subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 95-f of the state finance law, as added by chapter 266 of the laws of 2005, are amended to read as follows:

3. Monies of the fund shall be expended for the provision of veterans' counseling services provided by local veterans' service agencies pursuant to section three hundred fifty-seven of the executive law under the direction of the division of veterans' services.

4. To the extent practicable, the director of the division of veterans' services shall ensure that all monies received during a fiscal year are expended prior to the end of that fiscal year.

§ 16. The opening paragraph of subdivision 2-a and subdivision 5 of section 97-thousand-thousand of the state finance law, the opening paragraph of subdivision 2-a as amended by section 27-c of part UU of chapter 54 of the laws of 2016, and subdivision 5 as added by section 2 of part W of chapter 57 of the laws of 2013, are amended to read as follows:

On or before the first day of February each year, the director of the New York state division of veterans' services shall provide a written report to the temporary president of the senate, speaker of the assembly, chair of the senate finance committee, chair of the assembly ways and means committee, chair of the senate committee on veterans, homeland security and military affairs, chair of the assembly veterans' affairs committee, the state comptroller and the public. Such report shall include how the monies of the fund were utilized during the preceding calendar year, and shall include:

5. Moneys shall be payable from the fund on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by the director of the division of [veterans affairs] veterans' services.
§ 17. Subdivision 1, the opening paragraph of subdivision 2-a and subdivisions 4 and 5 of section 99-v of the state finance law, subdivisions 1, 4 and 5 as added by chapter 428 of the laws of 2014, and the opening paragraph of subdivision 2-a as amended by section 27-d of part UU of chapter 54 of the laws of 2016, are amended to read as follows:

1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the commissioner of taxation and finance, the New York state director of veterans' services and the comptroller, a special fund to be known as the "homeless veterans assistance fund".

On or before the first day of February each year, the director of the New York state division of veterans' services shall provide a written report to the temporary president of the senate, speaker of the assembly, chair of the senate finance committee, chair of the assembly ways and means committee, chair of the senate committee on veterans, homeland security and military affairs, chair of the assembly veterans' affairs committee, the state comptroller and the public. Such report shall include how the monies of the fund were utilized during the preceding calendar year, and shall include:

4. Moneys of the fund shall be expended only for the assistance and care of homeless veterans, for housing and housing-related expenses, as determined by the division of veterans' services.

5. Moneys shall be paid out of the fund on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by the New York state director of veterans' services. Any interest received by the comptroller on moneys on deposit in the homeless veterans assistance fund shall be retained in and become part of such fund.
§ 18. Subdivision 1 of section 168 of the labor law, as amended by section 117 of subpart B of part C of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

1. This section shall apply to all persons employed by the state in the ward, cottage, colony, kitchen and dining room, and guard service personnel in any hospital, school, prison, reformatory or other institution within or subject to the jurisdiction, supervision, control or visitation of the department of corrections and community supervision, the department of health, the department of mental hygiene, the department of social welfare or the division of veterans' services in the executive department, and engaged in the performance of such duties as nursing, guarding or attending the inmates, patients, wards or other persons kept or housed in such institutions, or in protecting and guarding the buildings and/or grounds thereof, or in preparing or serving food therein.

§ 19. Subdivision 3 of section 404-v of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 266 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

3. A distinctive plate issued pursuant to this section shall be issued in the same manner as other number plates upon the payment of the regular registration fee prescribed by section four hundred one of this article, provided, however, that an additional annual service charge of fifteen dollars shall be charged for such plate. Such annual service charge shall be deposited to the credit of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society fund established pursuant to section ninety-five-f of the state finance law and shall be used for veterans' counseling services provided by local veterans' service agencies pursuant to section three hundred fifty-seven of the executive law under the direction of the
division of veterans' affairs services. Provided, however, that one
year after the effective date of this section funds in the amount of
five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be available, shall be
allocated to the department to offset costs associated with the
production of such license plates.

§ 20. Subdivision 3 of section 11-0707 of the environmental conserva-
tion law, as amended by section 92 of subpart B of part C of chapter 62
of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

3. Any person who is a patient at any facility in this state main-
tained by the United States Veterans' Administration or at any hospital
or sanitorium for treatment of tuberculosis maintained by the state or
any municipal corporation thereof or resident patient at any institution
of the department of Mental Hygiene, or resident patient at the rehabil-
itation hospital of the department of Health, or at any rest camp main-
tained by the state through the Division of Veterans' Affairs Services
in the Executive Department or any inmate of a conservation work camp
within the youth rehabilitation facility of the department of
corrections and community supervision, or any inmate of a youth opportu-
nity or youth rehabilitation center within the Office of Children and
Family Services, any resident of a nursing home or residential health
care facility as defined in subdivisions two and three of section twen-
ty-eight hundred one of the public health law, or any staff member or
volunteer accompanying or assisting one or more residents of such nurs-
ing home or residential health care facility on an outing authorized by
the administrator of such nursing home or residential health care facil-
ity may take fish as if he held a fishing license, except that he may
not take bait fish by net or trap, if he has on his person an authori-
zation upon a form furnished by the department containing such identify-
ing information and data as may be required by it, and signed by the
superintendent or other head of such facility, institution, hospital,
sanitarium, nursing home, residential health care facility or rest camp,
as the case may be, or by a staff physician thereof duly authorized so
to do by the superintendent or other head thereof. Such authorization
with respect to inmates of said conservation work camps shall be limited
to areas under the care, custody and control of the department.

§ 21. Subdivision 5 of section 2805-b of the public health law, as
amended by chapter 64 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as
follows:

5. The staff of a general hospital shall: (a) inquire whether or not
the person admitted has served in the United States armed forces. Such
information shall be listed on the admissions form; (b) notify any
admittee who is a veteran of the possible availability of services at a
hospital operated by the veterans administration, and, upon request by
the admittee, such staff shall make arrangements for the individual's
transfer to a veterans administration operated hospital, provided,
however, that transfers shall be authorized only after it has been
determined, according to accepted clinical and medical standards, that
the patient's condition has stabilized and transfer can be accomplished
safely and without complication; and (c) provide any admittee who has
served in the United States armed forces with a copy of the "Information
for Veterans concerning Health Care Options" fact sheet, maintained by
the division of veterans' [affairs] services pursuant to subdivision
twenty-three of section three hundred fifty-three of the executive law
prior to discharging or transferring the patient. The commissioner shall
promulgate rules and regulations for notifying such admittees of possi-
ble available services and for arranging a requested transfer.
§ 22. Subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 2805-o of the public health law, subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 95 of the laws of 2004, and subdivision 3 as added by chapter 158 of the laws of 1993, are amended to read as follows:

2. Every nursing home and residential health care facility shall in writing advise all individuals identifying themselves as veterans or spouses of veterans that the division of veterans' services and local veterans' service agencies established pursuant to section three hundred fifty-seven of the executive law to provide assistance to veterans and their spouses regarding benefits under federal and state law. Such written information shall include the name, address and telephone number of the New York state division of veterans' services, the nearest division of veterans' services office, the nearest county or city veterans' service agency and the nearest accredited veterans' service officer.

3. Every nursing home and residential health care facility, upon request of individuals identifying themselves as veterans or spouses of veterans, shall transmit such veteran status information to the division of veterans' services.

§ 23. Subdivision 2 of section 3802 of the public health law, as added by chapter 1135 of the laws of 1971, is amended to read as follows:

2. In the exercise of the foregoing powers and duties the commissioner shall consult with the director of the division of veterans' services and the heads of state agencies charged with responsibility for manpower and health resources.

§ 24. Subdivision 3 of section 3803 of the public health law, as amended by chapter 743 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:
3. In exercising any of his or her powers under this section, the commissioner shall consult with appropriate health care professionals, providers, veterans or organizations representing them, the division of veterans' [affairs] services, the federal department of veterans' affairs and the United States defense department.

§ 25. Section 99-v of the general municipal law, as added by chapter 16 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

§ 99-v. Veterans [affairs] services; display of events. Each county, city, town or village may adopt a local law to provide a bulletin board to be conspicuously displayed in such county, city, town or village building holding its local legislative body or municipal offices. Such bulletin board shall be used by veterans organizations, the New York state division of veterans' [affairs] services, the county veterans service agency or city veterans service agency to display information regarding veterans in such county, city, town or village. Such information may include, but not be limited to, benefits or upcoming veterans related events in the community.

§ 26. Subdivision 1-b of section 247 of the military law, as added by chapter 477 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

1-b. The adjutant general is hereby authorized to present in the name of the legislature of the state of New York, a certificate, to be known as the "Cold War Certificate", bearing a suitable inscription, to any person: (i) who is a citizen of the state of New York or (ii) who was a citizen of the state of New York while serving in the armed forces of the United States; (iii) who served in the United States Armed Forces during the period of time from September second, nineteen hundred forty-five through December twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred ninety-one, commonly known as the Cold War Era; and (iv) who was honorably
discharged or released under honorable circumstances during the Cold War Era. Not more than one Cold War Certificate shall be awarded or presented, under the provisions of this subdivision, to any person whose entire service subsequent to the time of the receipt of such medal shall not have been honorable. In the event of the death of any person during or subsequent to the receipt of such certificate it shall be presented to such representative of the deceased as may be designated. The adjutant general, in consultation with the director of the division of veterans' [affairs] services, shall make such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary for the proper presentation and distribution of the certificate.

§ 27. Subdivision 3 of section 14-a of the domestic relations law, as amended by chapter 297 of the laws of 1963, is amended to read as follows:

3. No fee shall be charged for any certificate when required by the veterans administration or by the division of veterans' [affairs] services of the state of New York to be used in determining the eligibility of any person to participate in the benefits made available by the veterans administration or by the state of New York.

§ 28. Subdivision 1 of section 19 of the domestic relations law, as amended by chapter 674 of the laws of 1985, is amended to read as follows:

1. Each town and city clerk hereby empowered to issue marriage licenses shall keep a book supplied by the state department of health in which such clerk shall record and index such information as is required therein, which book shall be kept and preserved as a part of the public records of his office. Whenever an application is made for a search of such records the city or town clerk, excepting the city clerk of the
city of New York, may make such search and furnish a certificate of the
result to the applicant upon the payment of a fee of five dollars for a
search of one year and a further fee of one dollar for the second year
for which such search is requested and fifty cents for each additional
year thereafter, which fees shall be paid in advance of such search.
Whenever an application is made for a search of such records in the city
of New York, the city clerk of the city of New York may make such search
and furnish a certificate of the result to the applicant upon the
payment of a fee of five dollars for a search of one year and a further
fee of one dollar for the second year for which search is requested and
fifty cents each additional year thereafter. Notwithstanding any other
provision of this article, no fee shall be charged for any search or
certificate when required by the veterans administration or by the divi-
sion of veterans' [affairs] services of the state of New York to be used
in determining the eligibility of any person to participate in the bene-
fits made available by the veterans administration or by the state of
New York. All such affidavits, statements and consents, immediately upon
the taking or receiving of the same by the town or city clerk, shall be
recorded and indexed as provided herein and shall be public records and
open to public inspection whenever the same may be necessary or required
for judicial or other proper purposes. At such times as the commissioner
shall direct, the said town or city clerk, excepting the city clerk of
the city of New York, shall file in the office of the state department
of health the original of each affidavit, statement, consent, order of a
justice or judge authorizing immediate solemnization of marriage,
license and certificate, filed with or made before such clerk during the
preceding month. Such clerk shall not be required to file any of said
documents with the state department of health until the license is
returned with the certificate showing that the marriage to which they refer has been actually performed.

The county clerks of the counties comprising the city of New York shall cause all original applications and original licenses with the marriage solemnization statements thereon heretofore filed with each, and all papers and records and binders relating to such original documents pertaining to marriage licenses issued by said city clerk, in their custody and possession to be removed, transferred, and delivered to the borough offices of the city clerk in each of said counties.

§ 29. Subdivision 1 of section 3308 of the education law, as added by section 1 of part A of chapter 328 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

1. Each member state shall, through the creation of a state council or use of an existing body or board, provide for the coordination among its agencies of government, local educational agencies and military installations concerning the state's participation in, and compliance with, this compact and interstate commission activities. In New York, the state council shall include the commissioner or his or her designee, the director of the New York state division of veterans' [affairs] services or his or her designee, the adjutant general of the state of New York or his or her designee, a superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of military children appointed by the commissioner, a district superintendent of schools of a board of cooperative educational services serving an area with a high concentration of military children appointed by the commissioner, a representative from a military installation appointed by the governor, a representative of military families appointed by the governor, a public member appointed by the governor and
one representative each appointed by the speaker of the assembly, the
temporary president of the senate and the governor.

§ 30. Subdivision 1 of section 6505-c of the education law, as added
by chapter 106 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

1. The commissioner shall develop, jointly with the director of the
division of veterans' [affairs] services, a program to facilitate artic-
ulation between participation in the military service of the United
States or the military service of the state and admission to practice of
a profession. The commissioner and the director shall identify, review
and evaluate professional training programs offered through either the
military service of the United States or the military service of the
state which may, where applicable, be accepted by the department as
equivalent education and training in lieu of all or part of an approved
program. Particular emphasis shall be placed on the identification of
military programs which have previously been deemed acceptable by the
department as equivalent education and training, programs which may
provide, where applicable, equivalent education and training for those
professions which are critical to public health and safety and programs
which may provide, where applicable, equivalent education and training
for those professions for which shortages exist in the state of New
York.

§ 31. Paragraph 5 of subdivision (b) of section 5.06 of the mental
hygiene law, as added by section 2 of part N of chapter 56 of the laws
of 2012, is amended to read as follows:

(5) one member appointed on the recommendation of the state director
of the division of veterans' [affairs] services and one member appointed
on the recommendation of the adjutant general of the division of mili-
tary and naval affairs, at least one of whom shall be a current or
former consumer of mental health services or substance use disorder services who is a veteran who has served in a combat theater or combat zone of operations and is a member of a veterans organization;

§ 31-a. Subdivision (i) of section 19.07 of the mental hygiene law, as added by chapter 358 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

(i) The office of alcoholism and substance abuse services shall periodically, in consultation with the state director of veterans' services: (1) review the programs operated by the office to ensure that the needs of the state's veterans who served in the U.S. armed forces and who are recovering from alcohol and/or substance abuse are being met and to develop improvements to programs to meet such needs; and (2) in collaboration with the state director of veterans' services and the commissioner of the office of mental health, review and make recommendations to improve programs that provide treatment, rehabilitation, relapse prevention, and recovery services to veterans who have served in a combat theatre or combat zone of operations and have a co-occurring mental health and alcoholism or substance abuse disorder.

§ 31-b. Subdivision 15 of section 202 of the elder law, as amended by chapter 455 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

15. to periodically, in consultation with the state director of veterans' services, review the programs operated by the office to ensure that the needs of the state's aging veteran population are being met and to develop improvements to programs to meet such needs; and

§ 32. Paragraph (j) of subdivision 3 of section 20 of the social services law, as added by chapter 407 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

(j) to ensure the provision, on any form required to be completed at application or recertification for the purpose of obtaining financial
assistance pursuant to this chapter, the form shall contain a check-off question asking whether the applicant or recipient or a member of his or her family served in the United States military, and an option to answer in the affirmative. Where the applicant or recipient answers in the affirmative to such question, the office of temporary and disability assistance shall ensure that contact information for the state division of veterans' services is provided to such applicant or recipient, in addition to any other materials provided.

§ 33. Paragraph (g) of section 202 of the not-for-profit corporation law, as added by chapter 407 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

(g) Every corporation receiving any kind of state funding shall ensure the provision on any form required to be completed at application or recertification for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance pursuant to this chapter, that the application form shall contain a check-off question asking whether the applicant or recipient or a member of his or her family served in the United States military, and an option to answer in the affirmative. Where the applicant or recipient answers in the affirmative to such question, the not-for-profit corporation shall ensure that contact information for the state division of veterans' services is provided to such applicant or recipient in addition to any other materials provided.

§ 34. Paragraph (b) of section 1401 of the not-for-profit corporation law, as amended by chapter 675 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Removal of remains from private cemeteries to other cemeteries. The supervisor of any town containing a private cemetery may remove any body interred in such cemetery to any other cemetery within the town, if
the owners of such cemeteries and the next of kin of the deceased consent to such removal. The owners of a private cemetery may remove the bodies interred therein to any other cemetery within such town, or to any cemetery designated by the next of kin of the deceased. Notice of such removal shall be given within twenty days before such removal personally or by certified mail to the next of kin of the deceased if known and to the clerk and historian of the county in which such real property is situated and notice shall be given to the New York state department of state, division of cemeteries. If any of the deceased are known to be veterans, the owners shall also notify the division of veterans' services. In the absence of the next of kin, the county clerk, county historian or the division of veterans' services may act as a guardian to ensure proper reburial.

§ 35. Subdivision 10 of section 458 of the real property tax law, as added by chapter 426 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

10. The commissioner shall develop in consultation with the director of the New York state division of veterans' services a listing of documents to be used to establish eligibility under this section, including but not limited to a certificate of release or discharge from active duty also known as a DD-214 form or an Honorable Service Certificate/Report of Causality from the department of defense. Such information shall be made available to each county, city, town or village assessor's office, or congressional chartered veterans service officers who request such information. The listing of acceptable military records shall be made available on the internet websites of the division of veterans' services and the office of real property tax services.
§ 36. Subdivision 9 of section 458-a of the real property tax law, as added by chapter 426 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

9. The commissioner shall develop in consultation with the director of the New York state division of veterans' services a listing of documents to be used to establish eligibility under this section, including but not limited to a certificate of release or discharge from active duty also known as a DD-214 form or an Honorable Service Certificate/Report of Causality from the department of defense. Such information shall be made available to each county, city, town or village assessor's office, or congressional chartered veterans service officers who request such information. The listing of acceptable military records shall be made available on the internet websites of the division of veterans' services and the office of real property tax services.

§ 37. Subdivision 8 of section 458-b of the real property tax law, as added by chapter 426 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

8. The commissioner shall develop in consultation with the director of the New York state division of veterans' services a listing of documents to be used to establish eligibility under this section, including but not limited to a certificate of release or discharge from active duty also known as a DD-214 form or an Honorable Service Certificate/Report of Causality from the department of defense. Such information shall be made available to each county, city, town or village assessor's office, or congressional chartered veterans service officers who request such information. The listing of acceptable military records shall be made available on the internet websites of the division of veterans' services and the office of real property tax services.
§ 38. Subdivision 1 of section 20 of chapter 784 of the laws of 1951, constituting the New York state defense emergency act of 1951, as amended by section 85 of part A of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

1. There is hereby continued in the division of military and naval affairs in the executive department a state civil defense commission to consist of the same members as the members of the disaster preparedness commission as established in article two-B of the executive law. In addition, the superintendent of financial services, the chairman of the workers' compensation board and the director of the division of veterans' services shall be members. The governor shall designate one of the members of the commission to be the chairman thereof. The commission may provide for its division into subcommittees and for action by such subcommittees with the same force and effect as action by the full commission. The members of the commission, except for those who serve ex officio, shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties under this article but shall receive no additional compensation for services rendered pursuant to this article.

§ 39. Paragraph 2 of subdivision b of section 31-102 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by local law number 113 of the city of New York for the year 2015, is amended to read as follows:

2. links to websites describing veteran employment services provided by the federal government and New York state government, including, but not limited to, the websites of the United States department of labor, the New York state department of labor, the United States department of
veterans affairs, and the New York state division of veterans' [affairs] services; and

§ 40. Subdivision a of section 3102 of the New York city charter, as added by local law number 113 of the city of New York for the year 2015, is amended to read as follows:

a. Except as otherwise provided by law, the commissioner shall have such powers as provided by the director of the state veterans' service agency and shall have the duty to inform military and naval authorities of the United States and assist members of the armed forces and veterans, who are residents of the city, and their families, in relation to:

(1) matters pertaining to educational training and retraining services and facilities, (2) health, medical and rehabilitation service and facilities, (3) provisions of federal, state and local laws and regulations affording special rights and privileges to members of the armed forces and veterans and their families, (4) employment and re-employment services, and (5) other matters of similar, related or appropriate nature. The commissioner shall also assist families of members of the reserve components of the armed forces 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. The department also shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the state director of the division of veterans' [affairs] services.

§ 41. The section heading and subdivision 1 of section 352 of the executive law, as amended by chapter 501 of the laws of 1993, are amended to read as follows:

Veterans' [affairs] services commission. 1. There shall be in the division a veterans' [affairs] services commission, which shall consist of the members and the ex officio members provided for in this section.
§ 42. Subdivision 1 of section 359 of the executive law, as amended by
chapter 196 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

1 § 42. Subdivision 1 of section 359 of the executive law, as amended by
chapter 196 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

1. A local director shall designate the location of the local and
branch offices of the local veterans' service agency within his juris-
diction, which offices shall be open during convenient hours. The cost
of maintenance and operation of a county veterans' service agency shall
be a county charge and the cost of maintenance and operation of a city
veterans' service agency shall be a city charge, excepting that the
state director with the approval of the veterans' [affairs] services
commission shall allot and pay, from state moneys made available to him
for such purposes, to each county veterans' service agency and each city
veterans' service agency, an amount equal to fifty per centum of its
expenditures for maintenance and operation approved by the state direc-
tor, provided that in no event shall the amount allotted and paid for
such approved expenditures incurred in any given year exceed (1) in the
case of any county veterans' service agency in a county having a popu-
lation of not more than one hundred thousand or in the case of any city
veterans' service agency in a city having a population of not more than
one hundred thousand, the sum of ten thousand dollars, nor (2) in the
case of any county veterans' service agency in a county having a popu-
lation in excess of one hundred thousand excluding the population of any
city therein which has a city veterans' service agency, the sum of ten
thousand dollars, and, in addition thereto, the sum of five thousand
dollars for each one hundred thousand, or major portion thereof, of the
population of the county in excess of one hundred thousand excluding the
population of any city therein which has a city veterans' service agen-
cy, nor (3) in the case of any city veterans' service agency in a city
having a population in excess of one hundred thousand, the sum of ten
thousand dollars, and, in addition thereto, the sum of five thousand
dollars for each one hundred thousand, or major portion thereof, of the
population of the city in excess of one hundred thousand. Such popu-
lation shall be certified in the same manner as provided by section
fifty-four of the state finance law.

§ 43. Terms occurring in laws, contracts and other documents. Whenev-
er the functions, powers, obligations, duties and officials relating to
the division of veterans' affairs, the veterans' affairs commission or
the director of veterans' affairs is referred to or designated in any
other law, regulation, contract or document, such reference or desig-
nation shall be deemed to refer to the appropriate functions, powers,
obligations, duties, officials and director of the division of veterans'
services or the veterans' services commission, as designated by this
act.

§ 44. Existing rights and remedies preserved. No existing right or
remedy of any character shall be lost, impaired or affected by reason of
this act.

§ 45. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision,
section or part contained in any part of this act shall be adjudged by
any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall
not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be
confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivi-
sion, section or part contained in any part thereof directly involved in
the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered. It is
hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that this act would
have been enacted even if such invalid provisions had not been included
herein.
§ 46. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that the amendments to paragraph (c) of subdivision 4 of section 369-i of the executive law made by section thirteen of this act shall not affect the repeal of such section and shall be deemed repealed therewith.