Int. No. 2354

By Council Members Dinowitz and Vallone (by request of the Mayor)

..Title

A Local Law to amend the New York city charter and the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the veterans’ advisory board, the definition of veteran, and employment resources for veterans.

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Section 3101 of the New York city charter, as added by local law number 113 for the year 2015, is amended to read as follows:

§ 3101. Definition. As used in this chapter, the following term has the following meaning:

Veteran. The term "veteran" shall mean a person who serves or has served in the active military service [of the United States and who has been released from such service other than by dishonorable discharge, or who has been furloughed to the reserve], including the navy, air force, marines, army, space force, and their respective national guard or reserve components, regardless of discharge status or time served. “Veteran” shall also mean a person who serves or has served in the United States public health service or as a commissioned member of the national oceanic and atmospheric administration.

§ 2. Section 3103 of the New York city charter, as added by local law number 113 for the year 2015, is amended to read as follows:

§ 3103. Veterans' advisory board. a. There shall be a veterans' advisory board consisting of [eleven] 13 members, [all] 11 of whom shall be veterans[, six of whom] and two of whom shall be immediate family members, spouses or domestic partners, survivors, or caregivers of veterans. Of these 13 members, seven shall be appointed by the mayor, including one immediate family member, spouse or domestic partner, survivor or caregiver of a veteran, and [five of whom] six shall be appointed by the speaker of the council, including one immediate family member, spouse or domestic partner, survivor or caregiver of a veteran. Of these [eleven appointees] 13 members, there shall be at least one representative from each of the five boroughs of the city of New York. The mayor and the speaker shall each consider service in conflicts involving members of the United States armed forces when making such appointments.

b. All members shall serve for a term of three years and may be removed by the appointing official for cause. Members of the advisory board shall elect by majority vote one such member to serve as [chairperson] chair and one such member to serve as [vice-chairperson] vice chair, each to serve in that capacity for one-year terms. [In the event of a vacancy on the advisory board during the term of office of a member by reason of removal, death, resignation, or otherwise, a successor shall be chosen in the same manner as the original appointment. A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the balance of the unexpired term.]

c. The first members shall be appointed to serve as follows:

1. Two members appointed by the mayor for a term of one year;

2. Two members appointed by the mayor for a term of two years;

3. Three members appointed by the mayor for a term of three years;

4. Two members appointed by the speaker for a term of one year;

5. Two members appointed by the speaker for a term of two years; and

6. Two members appointed by the speaker for a term of three years.

The first terms shall commence on July 1, 2021. Thereafter, each member shall be appointed by the mayor or the speaker according to the original manner of appointment for a term of three years. In the case of a vacancy, a member shall be appointed to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term according to the original manner of appointment of the member whose seat has become vacant.

d. The advisory board shall

[(i)] 1. advise the commissioner on all matters concerning veterans;

[(ii)] 2. hold at least one meeting open to the public in each borough on an annual basis, with notice of each public meeting provided in accordance with the public notice requirements of article 7 of the public officers law except with respect to those requirements provided in section 31-105 of the administrative code, and with each public meeting recorded and broadcast in accordance with subdivision d of section 1063 of the charter;

[(iii)] 3. keep a record of its deliberations;

[(iv)] 4. determine its own rules of procedure; and

[(v)] 5. submit an annual report of its activities to the mayor and the council on or before December 31 of each year. Such annual report should include policy and legislative recommendations for the department of veterans' services and the council.

§ 3. Section 31-102 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by local law number 113 for the year 2015 and paragraph 2 of subdivision b as amended by section 39 of part AA of chapter 56 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

§ 31–102 Employment resources. a. [Definitions.] For the purposes of this section[: Federal veterans job bank. The] the term "federal veterans job bank" means the job bank developed by the federal government for veterans or any subsequent online tool that the federal government utilizes to connect veterans with employment opportunities.

[City job. The term "city job" means employment with the government of the city of New York.]

b. The department shall publish on its website information concerning resources intended to assist veterans in obtaining employment including, but not limited to:

1. a link to the federal veterans job bank;

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' services; and

3. links to any additional resources deemed relevant by the department.

[c. The department shall consult with the department of citywide administrative services and other appropriate city agencies to identify city job postings for inclusion in the federal veterans job bank and shall also ensure that such city job postings are included in such job bank and are updated as necessary to maintain accuracy.

d. The department shall consult with the department of small business services to identify job postings that are received or maintained by the department for inclusion in the federal veterans job bank and shall also ensure that such job postings are included in such job bank and are updated as necessary to maintain accuracy].

§ 4. This takes local law takes effect July 1, 2021, upon which date the appointments and terms set forth in section 3103 of the charter, as such section was in effect prior to the enactment of this local law, shall terminate. Terms set forth in such section, as amended by section two of this local law, shall commence on July 1, 2021. Provided, however, that the mayor and the speaker may make appointments to the veterans advisory board created by section 3103 as amended by section one of this local law, with terms commencing on July 1, 2021, prior to the effective date of such local law.