



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 1926

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, A.2554, legislation which would require at least three percent of the total value of annual state procurements are awarded to veteran-owned businesses.

By Council Members Reyna, Chin, Dickens, Eugene, James, Koppell, Mendez, Palma, Richards and Rodriguez

Whereas, Military veterans have performed a vital and heroic service to the nation, putting their lives on hold and in harm's way in order to protect the country and maintain peace and stability around the world; and

Whereas, As of 2010, there were almost one million veterans in New York State, of which more than one hundred thousand were receiving disability compensation; and

Whereas, According to a report by the Congressional Research Service, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have taken a deep toll on American service members, as combat has continued for more than a decade, resulting in almost 7,000 combat deaths and over 50,000 wounded, as well as over 130,000 cases of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and over 250,000 cases of Traumatic Brain Injuries; and

Whereas, In addition, it was reported in USA Today that about 3,000 active duty troops committed suicide since 2001, and according to a survey conducted by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, 30 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have contemplated committing suicide; and

Whereas, According to the Department of Labor, throughout much of the economic downturn, the unemployment rate among post-9/11 veterans has been several percentage points higher than the rest of the labor force, including as much as 5 percentage points higher in June, 2012; and

Whereas, Given the sacrifices made by these brave men and women, and the many difficulties they go through during their deployments and after they return, it is imperative that they are fully supported and

reintegrated into American society once they have completed their service; and

Whereas, One important way that New York State can provide support to veterans is to expand job opportunities for them by ensuring that businesses owned by veterans are able to compete for and win New York State contracts; and

Whereas, A.2554, currently pending in the New York State Assembly, would require the State's procurement director to promulgate rules which would ensure that at least three percent of the total value of annual state procurements is awarded to eligible veteran-owned businesses; now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, A.2554, legislation which would require at least three percent of the total value of annual state procurements are awarded to veteran-owned businesses.

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