



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jack M. Martins

## Senator Martins Introduces Bill to Assist Veteran-Owned Businesses

JACK M. MARTINS April 13, 2012

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In an effort to assist veterans from New York State in establishing businesses, New York State Senator Jack M. Martins has introduced a bill in the New York State Senate (S.6627) to promote the participation of veteran-owned businesses in the performance of state contracts.

Under Senator Martins' bill, three percent of all contracts from state contracting agencies would be awarded to veteran-owned businesses, ensuring that certified, veteran-owned businesses be given the opportunity to participate in the performance of state contracts. A veteran-owned business is described as a business enterprise that is at least 51 percent owned by a veteran who is a resident of New York State and has served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces.

"Many States, as well as the Federal Government recognize the service given to the nation by members of the Armed Forces. As a lifelong New York resident, except for three years active duty service as an Army Officer, it has been disappointing to see New York ignore veterans requests to simply be given the same preferences granted to women and minority-owned businesses," said Ted Bier of Sands Point, president of T.M. Bier & Associates. "As a Veterans Administration certified Vietnam-era veteran-owned company, our organization, TMBA, has lost work and suffered financial loss on New York State projects, because of New York's failure to grant us equal status. We applaud Senator Martins' efforts in behalf of all veterans and urge the New York State Senate to support his efforts."

The goal of the legislation is to enable veterans who have their own business to secure contracts from New York State. The reality is that many veterans who have served our nation proudly are struggling to remain in the state they have called home. This is a measure that recognizes the commitment and dedication that veterans from New York State have made to our country.

"Our veterans have made a tremendous commitment to our state. They have served admirably and bravely across the globe and in harm's way in defense of our freedom. This is a measure we can take to promote business for veterans who have given so much for our country," said Senator Martins. "It would be unfortunate to lose some of our bravest men and women to other states because they can't earn a living right here where they grew up."

Congressman Steve Israel and Assemblyman Charles Lavine recognized Senator Martins' efforts in introducing the bill in the State Senate for encouraging growth for businesses owned by veterans. Senator Martins hopes that Assemblyman Lavine will carry the bill in the Assembly and looks forward to working with him.