



New York State Senate Standing Committee on **Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs**

Senator John E. Brooks

Chair



Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore
NYS Senate Majority Leader

JOHN E. BROOKS
SENATOR, 8TH DISTRICT

Chairman
Veterans, Homeland Security and
Military Affairs

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



Committees
Education
Insurance
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Mental Health and Developmental
Disabilities

December 16, 2022

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President of the Senate and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Albany, New York, 12247

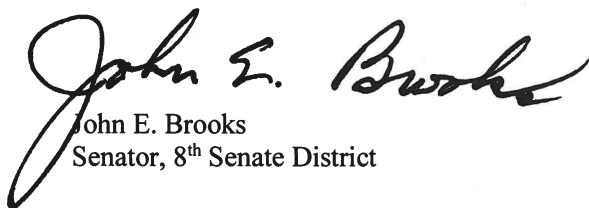
Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins:

I am pleased to submit the annual report of the Senate Standing Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs for the 2022 Legislative Session. It is an honor and a privilege to have worked in service to veterans and all those who make our state and nation safe. I am proud of the legislative accomplishments achieved by this committee this session.

This report details the activities of the committee from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Over the course of the year, the committee met three times and reported 33 bills. The committee focused on an eclectic mix of issues and policy priorities this session, but I would like to highlight a few of the most meaningful veterans' causes. This was another banner year for The Joseph P. Dwyer veterans' peer-to-peer mentoring program, which has expanded its successful community-based support model to all 63 counties making it the first statewide program of this nature in the country. The Division of Veterans Services was reorganized and expanded into a full department, complete with a commissioner who will have a seat in the Governor's cabinet. And finally the designation of U.S. Highway 20 as the New York Medal of Honor Highway which is part of a country wide effort to rename all 3,365 miles of the highway from coast to coast in recognition of our medal of honor recipients.

I would lastly like to thank all committee members, their staff, and our counsel Janine Smith for their invaluable support this session. Our committee in particular strives to place our policy priorities above partisanship, a goal reflected often in our voting record on issues brought to the table. I would like to thank the Ranking Member Patty Ritchie, a valuable and cooperative partner who serves this body with distinction. And to Senator Stewart-Cousins, I would like to thank you for the opportunity and honor it has been to serve as chair of the Committee. I am proud of all we have accomplished during my tenure as Chair and look forward to what the future leadership of this committee will deliver for our veterans.

Respectfully,


John E. Brooks
Senator, 8th Senate District

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON Veterans, Military Affairs and Homeland Security**

Senator John E. Brooks, Chairperson

Committee Members

Majority Members	Minority Members
Joseph P. Addabbo Jr Pete Harckham Elijah Reichlin-Melnick James Sanders Jr. José M. Serrano	Patty Ritchie (Ranking Minority Member) Daphne Jordan Alexis Weik

Committee Staff

Michelle Jensen, Clerk
Francis Palasieski, Director
Janine Smith, Counsel

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning veterans, state security, disaster preparedness and response, and current members of the military.

During the 2022 Legislative Session, 140 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 33 were reported from the Committee, 22 were passed by the Senate, and five passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of three committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2022, 33 of the 140 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Homeland Security and Military Affairs five passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed four with one more yet to be acted on.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Last Action
666A	Sanders	Relates to providing benefit information to a national guard member.	Signed Chap.483
2089B	Jordan	Relates to the issuance of a New York State Vietnam War Commemorative Medal.	Signed Chap.582
2091C	Jordan	Relates to the issuance of a New York State Korean War Commemorative Medal.	Signed Chap.583
3275	Parker	Exempts certain utility and other workers from state and local traveling bans during declared emergencies.	Passed Both Houses
8729	Sanders	Directs the division of veterans' services to develop a searchable database of veterans memorials located within the state, to include information regarding the location of a memorial and who or what veteran or battle the memorial is honoring.	Signed Chap.588

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Last Action
1231	Gianaris	Directs counties and the city of New York to contact a veterans' organization to provide for the disposition of the unclaimed remains of a deceased veteran when such veteran has no next of kin or other person designated to provide for the disposition of his or her remains; provides process.	Passed Senate
1288A	Brooks	Establishes the veteran career assistance program within the SUNY and CUNY systems to provide veterans with assistance in resume writing and employment placement services.	Passed Senate
1378A	Brooks	Authorizes municipalities to offer a real property tax exemption for property owned by certain persons performing active duty in a combat zone in an amount to the extent of fifteen percent of the assessed value of the real property, but shall not exceed twelve thousand dollars.	Passed Senate
2918A	Addabbo	Establishes a real property tax exemption for the primary residence of veterans with a 100 percent service connected disability.	Passed Senate
3402	Bailey	Provides additional tax exemptions on qualifying residential real property where two or more qualified veterans live in the same household.	Passed Senate
4344	Brouk	Authorizes a veteran's close friend or family who is reasonably familiar with such veteran's wishes to request that such veteran be buried in a state veterans' cemetery.	Passed Senate
5404	Brooks	Provides that the attorney general, in consultation with the adjutant general and the chairman of the board of trustees of the New York interest on lawyer account fund, establish a military pro bono program to provide legal assistance without charge to those in active military service of the United States and those military personnel who have been deployed for active duty other than training, and their family members domiciled or stationed in the state; makes related provisions.	Reported to Finance
6474A	Jordan	Authorizes the presentation of the New York State September Eleventh Service Medal to residents of New York who were in the armed forces and participated in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center site in response to the World Trade Center attack on September eleventh, two thousand one.	Advanced to Third Read
351	Addabbo	Authorizes the presentation of the New York State September Eleventh Service Medal to residents of New York who were in the armed forces and participated in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center site in response to the World Trade Center attack on September eleventh, two thousand one.	Advanced to Third Read
377A	Addabbo	Exempts certain veterans service organizations from taxes on the sales of beer, wine and soda.	Reported to Finance
666A	Sanders	Relates to providing benefit information to a national guard member.	Signed Chap.483

1225	Ritchie	Establishes the governor's military council for purposes of growing and protecting major military activities in the state, to leverage such military activities into creating additional defense-related jobs, and to help local units of government improve the quality of life of members of the armed forces and their families in New York state.	Passed Senate
1504	Hoylman	Exempts veterans from the payment of certain fees relating to corporations.	Passed Senate
6251	Jordan	Directs the department of taxation and finance to provide notice to a property owner who is a veteran or who is the spouse or unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran when a school district grants a school tax exemption or abatement for veterans and provide direction on how to apply for such exemption or abatement.	Advanced to Third Read
6475	Brooks	Establishes the position of expert insurance coordinator to coordinate and facilitate information sharing among local, state, and federal agencies to improve coordination with insurance companies with respect to disaster response to natural and man-made disasters.	Advanced to Third Read
2089B	Jordan	Relates to the issuance of a New York State Vietnam War Commemorative Medal.	Signed Chap.582
2091C	Jordan	Relates to the issuance of a New York State Korean War Commemorative Medal.	Signed Chap.583
2291	Sanders	Requires the state university of New York and the city university of New York to examine and conduct a study on the availability of campus services, programs and resources for veteran students.	Passed Senate
2649	Gallivan	Requires the executive director of the office of real property services to create a list of documents which support a veteran's eligibility when applying for real property tax exemptions.	Reported to Finance
2680A	Addabbo	Allows the granting of academic credit at state or city operated institutions to veterans.	Passed Senate
3275	Parker	Exempts certain utility and other workers from state and local traveling bans during declared emergencies.	Passed Both Houses
3945	Kennedy	Relates to veterans' eligibility for public housing; expands eligibility requirements to include veterans of the recent conflicts; requires granting of a preference for public housing to veterans or families of veterans who have a military service connected disability.	Passed Senate
4069A	Addabbo	Establishes the congressional chartered veterans service organizations fund; provides for gifts made to such fund on an individual's personal income tax return.	Passed Senate
5456B	Bailey	Expands the veterans tuition awards program to allow the transfer of unused benefits to a spouse, survivor or child; defines terms.	Passed Senate
5876B	Brooks	Requires state disaster preparedness plans and local comprehensive emergency management plans to include at least one annual simulation of both natural and man-made disaster events in the form of a tabletop exercise in which key personnel assigned emergency management roles and responsibilities gather to discuss, in a non-threatening environment, various simulated emergency situations; provides that such simulation shall be completed annually prior to the	Passed Senate

		first of May in areas at risk to hurricane damage.	
6460	Brooks	Establishes the position of an insurance liaison on the disaster preparedness commission to be appointed by the governor and serve as a non-voting member.	Passed Senate
7675	Mannion	Establishes training and education practices for firefighters and first responders to assist and protect mobility limited and intellectually challenged individuals in emergency situations.	Advanced to Third Read
8475	Harckham	Relates to the issuance of a New York State Afghanistan War Commemorative Medal.	Passed Senate
8476	Harckham	Relates to the issuance of a New York State Iraq War Commemorative Medal.	Passed Senate
8499	Bailey	Provides for the New York state of health to help veterans ascertain their eligibility for healthcare through the department of veterans affairs.	Reported to Health
8502	Bailey	Provides for an annual adjustment for reimbursements for certain veterans funerals.	Reported to Finance
8729	Sanders	Directs the division of veterans' services to develop a searchable database of veterans memorials located within the state, to include information regarding the location of a memorial and who or what veteran or battle the memorial is honoring.	Signed Chap.588
8853	Breslin	Establishes the resilient New York revolving loan program and the resilient New York revolving loan fund to provide low or no-interest loans to municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, and individual property owners for hazard mitigation and resilience projects; provides funding from federal STORM Act.	Advanced to Third Read



Annual Report 2022

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