



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John E. Brooks

Veterans Committee Chairman Brooks Holds Session Expanding Veterans Benefits Eligibility

JOHN E. BROOKS May 30, 2019

| ISSUE: **VETERANS ISSUES**

| COMMITTEE: **VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**



Senator Brooks met with Director of Veterans Services, Colonel James D. McDonough, Jr. he spoke on [S.6159](#) which is being brought before the committee at his request on behalf of the Division of Veterans Affairs.

[Senate Bill 6159](#) was brought before the committee today at the request of the Division of

Veterans Services. This bill will create a uniform definition of what a veteran is in NYS, and bring us in line with the Federal government ensuring that our veterans are eligible to receive the benefits that they deserve.

There are over 750,000 veterans in NYS, who are subject to 7 separate and different definitions of what constitutes a Veteran NY, which often creates confusion and results in an unfair distribution of benefits. The purpose of this legislation is to update the definition of "veteran" to comport with the definition of "veteran" in federal law, and to bring New York State's existing delivery of programs and services for Veterans and their family members into conformity with federal law.

RELATED LEGISLATION

2019-S6159

- Introduced

- ○ In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

- ○ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ○ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Redefines the term veteran

May 20, 2019

In Senate Committee [Rules](#)

Sponsored by [John E. Brooks](#)

Do you support this bill?