

Managing Partner Greg T. Rinckey discusses the new SDVOSB bill with The National Veteran Owned Business Association

The Empire State is Now Vetpreneur-Friendly!

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act (S6865/A9135) into law Monday, May 12, establishing a statewide goal to award 6 percent of procurement spending with vetpreneurs. This doubles the federal law and its 3 percent goal, making the New York legislation one of the most vigorous programs among the 27 other vetpreneur-friendly states (for a full breakdown of state-level vetpreneur-friendly legislation visit www.navoba.com/statetracker

)."Today New York is taking our commitment to honor the service and sacrifice of the disabled veterans who serve our state and nation to a higher level," Cuomo said. "This new law sets an ambitious and aggressive goal to make businesses owned by disabled veterans a more active part of state contracting and gives our heroes the recognition that they truly deserve."The legislation, sponsored by state Senator Greg Ball and Assembly Member Felix Ortiz, also creates the Division of Service Disabled Veterans' Business Development within the Office of General Services which will oversee the program and certify eligible businesses."We have been fighting to establish this set aside for years and I want to sincerely thank Governor Cuomo for his support and for keeping his commitment to our heroes," Ball said. "Let it be clear that this is not a handout; this is an opportunity for both employee and employer. These men and women have the exact skill sets we need in the workplace and the integrity we desperately need in the board room."Ortiz agreed."The enactment of this program will let New York's military personnel know that the sacrifices and contributions they made for our safety at home are recognized and appreciated, Ortiz said. "Giving our veterans increased economic opportunities as they make the transition back to civilian life is one way we can repay our debt of gratitude to them. For these brave men and women who have returned home with same the spirit they so admirably carried in active duty, we can and should encourage their interest in running their own small businesses. Our veterans deserve this contract preference and I am proud to have been a sponsor of this legislation."There were numerous NaVOBA members tirelessly advocating for this legislation including New York law firm Tully Rinckey, PLLC. Greg T. Rinckey, Esq, Tully Rinckey managing partner, said the new program opens up additional opportunities that were previously just out of reach for Tully Rinckey PLLC and other New York vetpreneurs. A longtime NaVOBA member, Tully Rinckey's 120 employees represent every branch of the U.S. Military and the firm has worked with Sen. Ball throughout the entire process.

"New York State spends billions each year on goods and services, Rinckey said. "This 6 percent set-aside will make sure that money stays right here in the Empire State, supporting service-disabled veterans and encouraging investment in small businesses. Other states, as well as those at the federal level, should take a hard look at what New York State is doing for

veterans and small businesses.”To learn more about the New York Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act and get the registration process started for your business visit veterans.ny.gov/business

or contact the NY Office of General Services directly by calling 844-579-7570 or sending an email to veteransdevelopment@ogs.ny.gov

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