



## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S.4365 (Harckham) / A.6055 (Woerner)

**AN ACT** to amend the real property tax law, in relation to clarifying the definition of veteran to include career members of the armed forces for purposes of the veterans alternative tax exemption

The Capital Region Chamber, representing 2,900 businesses and organizations from throughout the Capital Region that employ more than 160,000 area residents, supports S.4365 /A.6055, which would clarify the definition of veteran to include career members of the armed forces for purposes of the veterans alternative tax exemption.

Due to a policy change by the Department of Defense, New York State does not consider career active-duty members of the military to be Veterans and consequently are not eligible for the veterans alternative tax exemption. This legislation would correct what the Chamber believes is an unintended consequent which has created an unacceptable situation.

This legislation is of particular importance to the Chamber and our Unified Military Affairs Council (UMAC). UMAC has long recognized the importance our military installations, our military service members, and their significance to the overall well-being of the Capital Region. This legislation recognizes this significance and is intended to support our active-duty members of the military by allowing them to reenlist without jeopardizing an important benefit.

For these stated reasons, the Capital Region Chamber recommends the passage of this legislation which will demonstrate New York State's support for members of our active-duty military.

Date Issued: April 6, 2021

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