



New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association, Inc.

Committee for Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

*PO Box 254
East Schodack, NY 12063*

legislative@nysvara.org

September 10, 2010

Hon. Darrel Aubertine
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building – Rm. 908
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Tim Gordon
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building – Rm. 529
Albany, NY 12248

Re: Ch. 465 Laws of 2010

Dear Senator Aubertine and Assemblyman Gordon:

We write in regard to S5593-A and A8470-A which you sponsored and were signed into law by Governor Paterson as Chapter 465 of the laws of 2010. The law allows for the display of a blue light for rear projection on police and fire vehicles.

As you know, studies have show that a rear projecting blue lights can enhance traffic safety at roadway scenes where emergency service providers are operating. We applaud your efforts to help better protect New York's emergency responders as they operate at emergency situations on highways and roadways. However, as the law currently stands ambulance vehicles of independent ambulance services (including volunteer ambulance corps), and municipal ambulance services are not covered. Personnel and vehicles from these services also often respond to roadway and highway incidents to deliver critical emergency medical care.

In order to incorporate all of our state's emergency responders (particularly volunteer ambulance service members), into this important safety measure, we would ask your consideration of further amending the Vehicle and Traffic Law to include ambulance vehicles. This might be done by amending paragraph 4(b) of subdivision 41 of section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law to include ambulance vehicles, emergency ambulance service vehicles, and advanced life support first response vehicles certified pursuant to article 30 of the Public Health Law. This would also add consistency for all our state's emergency vehicles.

We are certain that New York's emergency medical service personnel would appreciate any assistance you might be concerning this important safety issue. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Michael Mastrianni
President

Christopher A. Bitner
Legislative & Regulatory Affairs