



New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association, Inc.

Committee for Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

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2011 BILL WATCH LIST

IMPROVED HIGHWAY SAFETY FOR EMERGENCY WORKERS

Amend the Vehicle & Traffic law to allow ambulance vehicles to use the blue light, for rear projection only, that creates the highway emergency incident safety zone which carries increased penalties for violators.

EMS personnel suffer countless injuries and fatalities each year working at the scenes of highway accidents. A law was signed in 2010 that permits the display of rear-projection blue lights on law enforcement and fire departments vehicles. Ambulance vehicles, however, were omitted from this law.

Assembly	Senate
<p>A07919 Amd S375, V & T L</p> <p>Relates to blue lights on ambulances, emergency ambulance service vehicles and county emergency medical services vehicles.</p> <p>Status: Signed into law Date: 7/18/2011</p>	<p>S05483 Amd S375, V & T L</p> <p>Relates to blue lights on ambulances, emergency ambulance service vehicles and county emergency medical services vehicles.</p> <p>Status: Signed into law Date: 7/18/2011</p>

SEAT BELT USE IN FIRE AND EMS VEHICLES

Amend the Vehicle & Traffic Law to eliminate the exemption provided to operators and front compartment passengers of authorized fire and EMS vehicles from the requirement to use seat belts.

Seat belts are a proven safety device; most ambulance and fire departments require personnel to use them whenever operating a department vehicle.

Assembly	Senate
<p>A7244 Amd S1229-c, V & T L</p> <p>Requires the use of seatbelts by volunteer firefighters; provides exception for emergency medical personnel providing patient care in the rear compartment of an ambulance.</p> <p>Status: In committee Date: 4/25/2011</p>	<p>S4765 Amd S1229-c, V & T L</p> <p>Requires the use of seatbelts by volunteer firefighters; provides exception for emergency medical personnel providing patient care in the rear compartment of an ambulance.</p> <p>Status: In committee Date: 4/25/2011</p>

DIRECT INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT

Require health insurance companies to pay ambulance services directly instead of sending payment to the patient.

Some insurance companies are demanding discounts from ambulance services. As a consequence for not receiving a discount some insurance companies then send payments to patients instead of the ambulance service. This delays the ambulances' receipt of payment, it increases administrative costs to track and recover the payment, and some payments never make it to the ambulance service.

<i>Assembly</i>	<i>Senate</i>
<p>A1341 Amd SS3224-a, 3216 & 3221, Ins L Specifies direct reimbursement to ambulance services for prehospital emergency medical services. Status: In committee Date: 4/25/2011</p>	
<p>A4093 Amd SS3224-a, 3216 & 3221, Ins L Specifies direct reimbursement to ambulance services for prehospital emergency medical services. Status: In committee Date: 4/25/2011</p>	<p>S2714 Amd SS3224-a, 3216 & 3221, Ins L Specifies direct reimbursement to ambulance services for prehospital emergency medical services. Status: In committee Date: 4/25/2011</p>

AMBULANCE SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM

Legitimize ambulance subscription programs.

Ambulance subscriptions provide a source of funding to EMS organizations before they respond to a call. They are especially important to those agencies serving areas with low population and call volume where the billing for calls will not cover operating expenses. Subscriptions also limit the out of pocket expenses of those using the services, which is important as health insurance coverage for ambulance service is declining.

<i>Assembly</i>	<i>Senate</i>
No legislation currently sponsored	

DEDICATED EMS TRAINING FUND

Continue the Dedicated Training Program Funding for EMS.

The Healthcare Reform Act provides funding for EMS training, Regional EMS Councils, Regional Program Agencies, and the New York State Department of Health's Bureau of EMS. This supports ongoing training and re-certification of EMTs, particularly volunteers.

<i>Assembly</i>	<i>Senate</i>
No legislation currently sponsored	

EMERGENCY SERVICE VOLUNTEER TAX CREDIT

Continue the current Real Property Tax Abatement and the Personal Tax Credit for volunteer Fire and EMS responders.

This is a low cost way to thank and assist those that give up their time for training and responding to emergencies in their communities often incurring expenses as they do so. This is another important tool for the recruitment and retention of volunteer EMS providers.

Assembly	Senate
<p>A3215 Amd S466-c, RPT L</p> <p>Relates to real property tax exemptions for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers in certain counties; eliminates renewal application requirement under certain circumstances.</p> <p>Status: In committee Date: 4/25/2011</p>	<p>S1836 Amd S466-c, RPT L</p> <p>Relates to real property tax exemptions for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers in certain counties; eliminates renewal application requirement under certain circumstances.</p> <p>Status: In committee Date: 4/25/2011</p>
<p>A3165 Amd S612, Tax L</p> <p>Provides a modification reducing federal adjusted gross income (USAGI) in determining New York adjusted gross income (NYAGI) for state income tax purposes for active volunteer firefighters and members of volunteer ambulance companies.</p> <p>Status: In committee Date: 4/25/2011</p>	
<p>A4593 Amd S606, Tax L</p> <p>Gives state income tax credit to volunteer firefighters and members of a volunteer ambulance corps in good standing up to \$1200; must be in good standing for a minimum of five years and maintain continued eligibility.</p> <p>Status: In committee Date: 4/25/2011</p>	<p>A3256 Amd S606, Tax L</p> <p>Provides a five hundred dollar personal income tax credit to all active volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers.</p> <p>Status: In committee Date: 4/25/2011</p>
<p>A03109 Amd S606, Tax L</p> <p>Increases the tax credit allowed volunteer firefighters or ambulance workers from two hundred dollars to five hundred dollars; such credit is treated as a payment, if tax is less than credit, difference is paid to taxpayer.</p> <p>Status: In committee Date: 7/10/2010</p>	<p>A03029 Amd S606, Tax L</p> <p>Provides a two hundred dollar personal income tax credit to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers who have completed all required training courses as required by the state of New York.</p> <p>Status: In committee Date: 4/25/2011</p>