

Legislative message from the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association

June was a very busy month for the NYS legislature and legislative committees of various Fire & EMS organizations who collectively & continually pushed for the passage of various bills prior to the end of the legislative session on 6/25/08. We are happy to report the following bills were approved by the Assembly and Senate. Please send Emails, faxes or letters urging Governor David Paterson to sign these bills into law.

Please call the Governor's Office at (518) 474-8390 or visit www.ny.gov/governor/contact/index.html

(<http://www.ny.gov/governor/contact/index.html>) to send him an email.

To view the complete bills on line go to www.assembly.state.ny.us or www.senate.state.ny.us

LOSAP Points for line of duty disablements – Assembly bill #10449 and Senate Bill # 7717 – amends the general municipal law to grant a volunteer ambulance worker five points per month during periods of either totally or temporarily disablement as a result of an injury sustained during their work as a volunteer. At the May 3, 2008 NYSVA&RA Legislative Day, Andrea Golinsky and Bob Franz met with Assemblyman Sweeney's aide Steve Liss and Penflex's President Ed Holohan and requested that a bill be introduced to allow the granting of LOSAP points for a line of duty disablement. The bill was introduced shortly thereafter.

MOLST - Assembly bill #10764 and Senate bill #7683 - amends the public health law, in relation to demonstration programs for alternative forms for non hospital orders not to resuscitate (DNR) and not to intubate (DNI) and makes the Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) Program permanent and statewide. Once signed into law, the MOLST will be used in the community as DNR and DNI, which in turn will facilitate appropriate treatment by emergency medical services (EMS) personnel throughout New York State. The MOLST program had been a pilot program in Monroe and Onondaga counties.

Health Insurance – Assembly bill # A7699A and Senate Bill # 4617A – amends the general municipal law to allow volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to participate in certain public employee health insurance plans. The total cost of participation would be borne by the volunteers.

Official License Plates – Assembly bill # A10590B and Senate Bill # S7653-C – amends the Vehicle & Traffic Law to authorize the issuance of official license plates to fire companies and ambulance companies (EASVs). The combined effort of the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association and the Suffolk County Ambulance Chiefs Association resulted in the bill being amended to include ambulance companies' Emergency Ambulance Service Vehicles