



News From

## Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney

□ District Office: 640 West Montauk Highway, Lindenhurst, NY 11757  
631-957-2087 · Fax: 631-957-2998

□ Albany Office: Room 625, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248  
518-455-5787 · Fax: 518-455-3976  
sweeney@assembly.state.ny.us

Contact: Stephen Liss

Release: Immediately

### EMT Recertification Bill Signed Into Law

Assemblyman Bob Sweeney (D-Lindenhurst) has announced that legislation he sponsored to extend the pilot EMT and Advanced EMT recertification program has been signed into law. Sweeney's legislation had passed both the Assembly and the Senate unanimously.

The program allows EMTs and Advanced EMTs (AEMT) who have completed the necessary continuing education requirements to renew their certification without completing a written examination. The bill extends the recertification program for five years. The original law, authored by Assemblyman Sweeney, was requested by EMT's and AEMT's from Suffolk County.

"The need for EMT and AEMT services is higher than ever. Allowing veteran emergency responders to maintain their certification through continuing education is good policy and will save lives", said Assemblyman Sweeney.

The measure, which became law on June 30<sup>th</sup>, renews New York's pilot program and ensures that EMTs in the program can continue to utilize continuing education as a means of recertification. This helps to retain EMTs and AEMTs who have already passed the certification examination and are looking to maintain and improve their skillsets.

The continuing education recertification program has numerous advantages, including aiding in retention of EMTs and AEMTs, offering a wider variety of learning experiences, and offering a flexible timeframe for recertifying.

EMTs and AEMTs involved in the program take 72 hours of continuing education within a three year period, giving them the chance to participate in seminars, workshops, journal clubs and other continuing education opportunities.

Most recent data indicates that 49% of all EMS agencies in New York State were enrolled in the program. Approximately 18,000 EMTs and AEMTs renew annually through this program

This bill was sponsored in the New York State Senate by Senator Kemp Hannon (R- Garden City).

###