



New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association, Inc.

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6/3/11

I am pleased to report that both New York State Assembly and New York State Senate have introduced bills to amend Vehicle and Traffic Law to permit ambulance service vehicles and county EMS vehicles to display rear projecting blue lights. Assemblyman Sweeney and Senator Martins sponsored this bill. Both houses have referred them to their respective Transportation Committees.

I have sent a Memo of Support to both sponsors as well as to the Chairmen of the Transportation Committees in both the Assembly and Senate. *These bills were introduced as a direct result of NYSVARA's efforts.*

I am now asking for your help and support. I have attached a copy of the Memo of Support that I sent to Assemblyman Sweeney. I am asking that you contact your local State Legislators asking them to support these bills. Please feel free to use the attached Memo of Support as a template if you would like. I would ask that squads and individuals use their letter head and name when sending/contacting their local representatives.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. Thank you very much.

Have a great holiday weekend and Be Safe.

Mike

Michael J. Mastrianni, Jr.

President

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May 26, 2011

To: Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeny

From: Michael J. Mastrianni, Jr., President

Henry A. Ehrhardt, Executive Vice President

Chris Bitner, Vice President, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Liaison

Subject: A7919/S5483 – Relates to blue lights on ambulances, emergency ambulance service vehicles and county EMS vehicles

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Chapter 465 of the laws of 2010 provided for the display of a blue light for rear projection on police and fire vehicles.

Studies have show that a rear projecting blue lights can enhance traffic safety at roadway scenes, particularly on fast moving highways, where emergency service providers are operating In addition to police and fire agencies, personnel and vehicles from ambulance services and County EMS and Deputy EMS Coordinators also often respond to roadway and highway incidents to deliver critical emergency medical care.

In order to further incorporate our state's emergency responders (including volunteer ambulance service members) into this important safety measure, this bill would provide for the display of rear projecting blue lights on ambulances, emergency ambulance service vehicles and county EMS vehicles, in the same manner as allowed for police and fire vehicles. This would add consistency for all our state's emergency vehicles.

This bill would recognize the vital public safety service provided to communities throughout NYS by these agencies. Further, this will enable the Department of Motor Vehicles to update and adopt a uniform standard for rear projecting blue lights on various emergency services vehicles.

In addition to our Association, this bill has received the support of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, the United New York Ambulance Network, the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs and the Association of EMS Coordinators. At the most recent meeting New York State Emergency Medical Services Council meeting, this bill received unanimous support.

On behalf of all EMS providers in New York, we would like to thank you for the support you have shown to New York State EMS professionals.

