

Urging The State Of New York To Amend The Tax Law To Provide Credit To Volunteer Firefighters, Volunteer Ambulance Workers And Volunteer Emergency Medical Personnel

The Criminal Justice / Public Safety / STOP DWI Committee (Chairman Meyer and Legislators Aiello, DePew, Every, Dart, Feldmann and Hyatt) and Legislators Alfonso, Busick, Cummings, Felicello, Gerentine, Harris, Hathaway, Maloney, McAfee, Noonan, Roberti, Stock, Tipp and Stoeckeler offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Ambulance Association and Hudson Valley Regional EMS Council as part of their legislative agenda recommends State Income Tax credits for volunteer Emergency Service Workers, and

WHEREAS, volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance workers and volunteer emergency medical personnel provide valuable and essential services to and within their rural communities, and

WHEREAS, these volunteers often face danger and/or may make personal sacrifices of time and expense in order to give of themselves to their communities, and

WHEREAS, one of the greatest difficulties confronting volunteer services today is the recruitment and retention of members, and

WHEREAS, there are several bills pending in the New York State Legislature that would provide tax incentives to volunteers including A4673/S2496, and A7156/S4288 and A7271/S472, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature believes that the concept of State tax exemption for qualified members of volunteer fire departments and ambulance corps is important to the future health and viability of these volunteer services, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Fire Advisory Board has recommended supporting tax incentives for volunteer firefighters, and

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice/Public Safety/STOP DWI Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval.

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby urges the New York State Assembly, the New York Senate and the Governor of the State of New York to agree upon a single bill that would provide a State tax exemption for qualified members of volunteer fire departments and volunteer ambulance corps, and

Resolution No. 106 March 11, 2004

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor George E. Pataki, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader Martin Connor, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Minority Leader Charles Nesbitt, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Clifford Crouch, Daniel Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, and the New York State Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 32 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Hathaway)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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