URGING PASSAGE OF NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY BILL NO. A07816 AND NEW YORK STATE SENATE BILL NO. S03264 ALLOWING ENROLLED MEMBERS OF AN INCORPORATED VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, FIRE DEPARTMENT, OR INCORPORATED VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE TO SELECT BOTH THE INCOME TAX CREDITS AND PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION

Legislators Aiello, Bischoff, Briggs, Cahill, Cummings, Dart, Decker, Donaldson, Fabiano, Felicello, Gerentine, Gregorius, Hansut, Harris, Hochberg, Lomita, Loughran, Maloney, Noonan, Richard Parete, Robert Parete, Petit, Provenzano, Roberti, Roberts, Rodriguez, Ronk, Shapiro, Sheeley, Stoeckeler, Terpening, Terrizzi and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, New York State Assembly Bill No. A07816 and New York State Senate Bill No. S03264 would repeal the provision of law that volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers who receive a real property tax exemption for service may not receive the income tax credit for such service, and

WHEREAS, New York State Assembly Bill No. A07816 and New York State Senate Bill No. S03264 would allow volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to receive both the volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers tax credit and a locally enacted real property tax exemption, and

WHEREAS, members of volunteer fire companies, fire departments and voluntary ambulance services provide invaluable services to the people of Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, these volunteers must undertake numerous hours of training to be certified and re-certified, on their own time and frequently at their own expense, and

WHEREAS, these volunteers discharge their duties, which are often dangerous and come at great personal sacrifice, without the expectation of personal recognition or reward, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Ulster County to act to support such volunteers, to maintain the existing ranks of the volunteer corps and to encourage new members to join, and

WHEREAS, fire calls in Ulster County have risen 56 percent in the past 10 years, while medical calls have risen 38 percent, and

WHEREAS, Volunteer Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services are recognizing increasingly difficult times in attracting and maintaining members, and
Resolution No. 268 September 9, 2009

Urging Passage Of New York State Assembly Bill No. A07816 And New York State Senate Bill No. S03264 Allowing Enrolled Members Of An Incorporated Volunteer Fire Company, Fire Department, Or Incorporated Volunteer Ambulance Service To Select Both The Income Tax Credits And Property Tax Reduction

WHEREAS, current economic and tax conditions create even greater pressure on the available time for members to offer time to volunteer, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges passage of New York State Assembly Bill No. A07816 and New York State Senate Bill No. S03264 allowing for volunteers to be eligible for both the state income tax benefit and county property tax reduction, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, Senate Majority Leader Pedro Espada Jr., Senate Minority Leader Dean G. Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader Brian M. Kolb, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Frank K. Skartados and the New York State Association of Counties,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 27 NOES: 0
(1 Abstention: Legislator Briggs)
(Absent: Legislators Aiello, Decker, Felicello and Shapiro)
(Legislator Roberts left 8:31 PM/returned 8:33 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
UNKNOWN

0916