

1 **2024 NYSAC Fall Seminar**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**  
3 **Resolution #5**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging the State of New York to Enact the Rescue EMS Package**  
6 **of Legislation to Strengthen our Emergency Medical Services**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is a vital resource, necessary to the  
9 health and well-being of communities across New York; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, as a system that provides a wide range of prehospital medical care to sick  
12 or injured people in emergency situations, the difference between a municipality that  
13 provides for EMS and one that does not can often make the difference between life and  
14 death; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, despite its vast importance, there is an ongoing EMS crisis in this state,  
17 particularly in how it is funded, staffed, and operated; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, much of this stems from a fundamental misconception about EMS vis-a-  
20 vis other critical services like police and fire. This is reflected in New York State law,  
21 which fails to recognize the essential nature of EMS; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, as a result, EMS providers are often undervalued and under-respected for  
24 the critical role they play in our communities; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, the State Legislature passed through both houses several components of  
27 the Rescue EMS Package, including these bills introduced in 2024:

- 28  
29
- 30 • **S.8486-C (Hinchey) / A.9102-C (Kelles)**. This legislation authorizes  
31 Medicaid reimbursement to emergency medical services (EMS) agencies for  
32 providing Treatment in Place (TIP) to a patient at the point of response; as well  
33 as Transportation to an Alternate Provider (TAP), getting a patient to the most  
34 appropriate health care setting other than a hospital, such as a mental health  
35 clinic, rehabilitation facility or urgent care.
  - 36 • **Authority for Ambulances to Store and Distribute Blood & Initiate**  
37 **Blood Transfusions – S.6226-A (Hinchey)/A.5789-A (Woerner)**. This  
38 legislation amends the public health law to allow for ambulance services and  
39 advanced life support first response service to store and distribute blood.  
40 Distribution and administration of the blood on an ambulance is limited to only  
41 qualified medical and health personnel, such as a registered nurse.
  - 42 • **Grants Municipalities the Authority to Offer Real Property Tax**  
43 **Exemptions to Volunteer EMS and Firefighters Working in**  
44 **Neighboring Communities–S.2862-A (Martinez)/A.2121-A (Stern)**.  
This legislation provides localities with the option of adopting a local law to allow

1 residents who serve in a neighboring municipality the ability to receive a tax  
2 exemption they would be entitled to had they served in the municipality in which  
3 they reside; and

4  
5 **WHEREAS**, despite the bills that successfully passed in the 2024 legislative session,  
6 more work needs to be done to address this crisis; and

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the EMS framework in New York includes an array of private, public, or  
9 not-for-profit providers that have expanded across the state in a scattered, patchwork  
10 approach; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, this leaves many New York residents uncertain whether an EMS provider  
13 will be available in their community at the time of need, which necessitates greater  
14 flexibility for municipalities to ensure EMS can meet unique local challenges and build  
15 the foundation for a stronger and more efficient EMS system.

16  
17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
18 Counties (NYSAC) urges the New York State Legislature and Governor Kathy Hochul to  
19 support the following legislative measures (2024 bill numbers) during the 2025  
20 legislative session:

21 • **S.4020-C (Mayer) / A.3392-C (Otis)**

22 This comprehensive legislative package allows special taxing districts to be  
23 created to fund EMS services. In addition, this legislation would recognize EMS  
24 as an essential service and provide reforms to the Emergency Medical Services  
25 Council.

26 • **S.5000 (May) / A.4077 (Lupardo)**

27 This legislation would remove EMS services from the real property tax cap,  
28 allowing local municipalities to expand and better support their local EMS  
29 services. This measure is of critical importance to counties like Erie, Wayne,  
30 Otsego, and Wyoming which have established county-operated EMS systems.

31 • **S.6630 (Mannion) / A.6274 (Barrett)**

32 This legislation allows volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to claim  
33 both state income and local property tax credits.

34 • **S.7286 (Martinez) / A.7524 (Thiele) (Part CC, S.8309-A)**

35 This legislation increases the volunteer firefighters' and ambulance workers'  
36 personal income tax credit from \$200 to \$800 for eligible individuals and from  
37 \$400 to \$1,600 for eligible married joint filers. This legislation also allows  
38 volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to claim both state income and  
39 local property tax credits.

40 • **S.3223 (Sanders) / A.9237 (Hevesi)**

41 This bill would create a methodology for ambulance reimbursement under  
42 Medicaid that more closely approximates the cost of providing the service.  
43 Ambulances are required by law to pick everyone up, including Medicaid  
44 patients. It is unfair to require these ambulance companies to accept Medicaid

1 patients and then not fairly reimburse them for the costs of providing services to  
2 these patients.

3 • **S.6645 (Comrie) / A.6136 (Eachus)**

4 This legislation requires the Thruway Authority to issue emergency services  
5 permits to EMS vehicles as is already done for fire vehicles, which would exempt  
6 EMS from being required to pay tolls while transporting patients on the NYS  
7 Thruway.  
8

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
10 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
11

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
13 Governor Kathy C. Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed  
14 necessary and proper.