

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

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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

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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

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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

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

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

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

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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

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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.

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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.
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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
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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.