

S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

S. 3552--A
Cal. No. 580

A. 5668--A

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

S E N A T E - A S S E M B L Y

February 25, 2011

IN SENATE -- Introduced by Sens. RITCHIE, AVELLA, DeFRANCISCO, GALLIVAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government -- recommitted to the Committee on Local Government in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

IN ASSEMBLY -- Introduced by M. of A. MAGEE, TENNEY, GIGLIO, OAKS, McDO-
NOUGH, MURRAY, GRAF, BRINDISI -- read once and referred to the Commit-
tee on Local Governments -- recommitted to the Committee on Local
Governments in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee
discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted
to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to authorizing a
municipality to contract for the assistance of a volunteer
wilderness/inland search and rescue team

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 209-bb of the general municipal law, as amended by
2 chapter 482 of the laws of 1997, is amended to read as follows:
3 S 209-bb. Specialized teams; VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS/INLAND SEARCH AND
4 RESCUE TEAMS. 1. A. By resolution, after a public hearing the governing
5 body of each county, city and town is authorized, respectively, to
6 establish, maintain and supervise municipal-wide and inter-municipal
7 specialized teams.
8 [2.] B. Counties, cities and towns are authorized to appropriate and
9 expend such sums as are deemed necessary to establish and maintain
10 specialized teams pursuant to this section.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 [3.] C. Municipalities and organizations that insure volunteer fire-
2 fighters, volunteer ambulance workers or municipal employees, as the
3 term "employee" is defined under section eighteen of the public officers
4 law, may extend such insurance coverage to members of a specialized team
5 by resolution.

6 [4.] D. For the purposes of this section, "specialized teams" shall
7 mean any emergency team or squad composed of volunteer firefighters,
8 volunteer ambulance workers or municipal employees, who shall have
9 attained the minimum level of training or experience to meet qualifying
10 standards established by the office of fire prevention and control, and
11 which is administered by the state, a county, city or town for the
12 purposes of training for or responding to a man made or natural disaster
13 by carrying out any activities which are within the relevant training
14 and expertise of such municipal employees or are authorized pursuant to
15 the volunteer firefighters' benefit law or the volunteer ambulance work-
16 ers' benefit law but which are not normally provided by such entities.

17 2. A. THE GOVERNING BODY OF EACH COUNTY, CITY, TOWN AND VILLAGE IS
18 AUTHORIZED, RESPECTIVELY, TO CONTRACT FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF A VOLUNTEER
19 WILDERNESS/INLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOCATING AND
20 RESCUING AN INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS.

21 B. NO MUNICIPALITY SHALL BE LIABLE FOR THE INJURY, DEATH OR DAMAGE TO
22 A VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS/INLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM OR ITS MEMBERS
23 OCCURRING DURING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED BY THIS
24 SECTION. SUCH TEAM AND ITS MEMBERS SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE
25 MUNICIPALITY THAT CONTRACTED FOR ASSISTANCE WITH SUCH VOLUNTEER
26 WILDERNESS/INLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION
27 AGAINST ANY CLAIM OF LIABILITY FOR ANY INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE
28 THAT MAY OCCUR AS A RESULT OF AN ACT OF SUCH TEAM AND ITS MEMBERS,
29 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY INDEMNITY PAID, ATTORNEYS' FEES,
30 COSTS AND LITIGATION EXPENSES. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL
31 NOT APPLY WHEN THE MUNICIPALITY HAS ENGAGED IN WILLFUL MISCONDUCT, GROSS
32 NEGLIGENCE OR RECKLESSNESS.

33 C. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS/INLAND SEARCH
34 AND RESCUE TEAM" OR "TEAM" SHALL MEAN AN ORGANIZATION: WHOSE MEMBERS
35 HAVE OBTAINED A MINIMUM LEVEL OF TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE AS MAY BE ESTAB-
36 LISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION'S OFFICE OF
37 PUBLIC PROTECTION; THAT IS FORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOCATING AND RESCU-
38 ING, OR RECOVERING, A KNOWN INDIVIDUAL OR KNOWN INDIVIDUALS, IN AN
39 UNKNOWN LOCATION, WHOSE SAFETY MAY BE THREATENED BY CONDITIONS RELATED
40 TO THE ENVIRONMENT OR OTHER FACTORS; THAT IS INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS
41 OF NEW YORK STATE; AND THAT OPERATES NOT FOR PECUNIARY PROFIT OR FINAN-
42 CIAL GAIN.

43 D. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS/INLAND
44 SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM MEMBER" SHALL MEAN AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER MEMBER OF
45 A VOLUNTEER SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM WHO MEETS THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF TRAIN-
46 ING OR EXPERIENCE PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH C OF THIS SUBDIVISION AND IS
47 SPECIFIED ON A LIST REGULARLY MAINTAINED BY THE VOLUNTEER
48 WILDERNESS/INLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM. SUCH LIST SHALL BE PROVIDED TO
49 A REQUESTING MUNICIPALITY. IN ADDITION, FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A
50 VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS/INLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM MEMBER SHALL BE AN
51 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AND SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED AN OFFICER OR EMPLOY-
52 EE OF THE CONTRACTING MUNICIPALITY.

53 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.