

STATE OF NEW YORK

7246

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 19, 2023

Introduced by Sen. MANNION -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, the penal law, and the arts and cultural affairs law, in relation to participants in youth programs sponsored by fire departments

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 204-b of the general municipal law, as added by chapter 386 of the laws of 1978, are amended to
2 read as follows:

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4 5. All activities of participants in such program shall be approved in
5 advance by the chief, or his or her designee. [~~No activities may include~~
6 ~~emergency duties in connection with fire department or fire company~~
7 ~~operations or any other hazardous activity.~~] Participants may respond to
8 an emergency or hazardous activity, but shall remain in an appropriate
9 and safe designated area that has been established by the chief or officer
10 in charge. The chief or officer in charge shall determine if any
11 such participant is allowed to respond to an emergency in a vehicle
12 using lights and/or sirens. Furthermore, such participants may not
13 enter a burning structure nor shall participants in a youth program
14 pursuant to this section fall under the definition of active volunteer
15 firefighter as defined in section three of the volunteer firefighters'
16 benefit law.

17 7. Volunteer fire departments and fire companies may purchase accident
18 insurance to insure participants in such programs against injury or
19 death resulting from bodily injuries sustained in performance of
20 approved activities. In addition, they may purchase insurance to protect
21 against liability arising from approved activities. The insurance
22 purchased pursuant to this subdivision may include medical and hospital
23 coverage. A volunteer fire department or fire company shall not allow
24 participants in such program to ride in any vehicle owned or operated by

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

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1 such volunteer fire department or fire company, unless such volunteer
2 fire department or fire company has purchased insurance protecting
3 against liability that could arise from such participant being injured
4 in an accident while riding in such vehicle.

5 § 2. Section 260.10 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 447 of the
6 laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

7 § 260.10 Endangering the welfare of a child.

8 1. A person is guilty of endangering the welfare of a child when:

9 ~~[1-]~~ (a) He or she knowingly acts in a manner likely to be injurious
10 to the physical, mental or moral welfare of a child less than seventeen
11 years old or directs or authorizes such child to engage in an occupation
12 involving a substantial risk of danger to his or her life or health; or

13 ~~[2-]~~ (b) Being a parent, guardian or other person legally charged with
14 the care or custody of a child less than eighteen years old, he or she
15 fails or refuses to exercise reasonable diligence in the control of such
16 child to prevent him or her from becoming an "abused child," a
17 "neglected child," a "juvenile delinquent" or a "person in need of
18 supervision," as those terms are defined in articles ten, three and
19 seven of the family court act.

20 ~~[3-]~~ 2. A person is not guilty of the provisions of this section when
21 he or she engages in the conduct described in subdivision one of section
22 260.00 of this article: (a) with the intent to wholly abandon the child
23 by relinquishing responsibility for and right to the care and custody of
24 such child; (b) with the intent that the child be safe from physical
25 injury and cared for in an appropriate manner; (c) the child is left
26 with an appropriate person, or in a suitable location and the person who
27 leaves the child promptly notifies an appropriate person of the child's
28 location; and (d) the child is not more than thirty days old.

29 3. A volunteer fire department or fire company or a member thereof
30 shall not be guilty of a violation of this section for engaging in
31 actions authorized under section two hundred four-b of the general
32 municipal law as part of a youth program.

33 Endangering the welfare of a child is a class A misdemeanor.

34 § 3. Paragraph (e) of subdivision 1 of section 35.07 of the arts and
35 cultural affairs law is amended to read as follows:

36 (e) In any practice or exhibition or place dangerous or injurious to
37 the life, limb, health or morals of such child provided, however, that
38 the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to: (i) service as a
39 member of a certified volunteer ambulance service under the supervision
40 of an emergency medical technician as provided in article thirty of the
41 public health law by youthful volunteers at least fifteen years of age
42 who hold a current American Red Cross advanced first aid and emergency
43 care card; or (ii) participation in activities authorized under section
44 two hundred four-b of the general municipal law as part of a youth
45 program.

46 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.