STATE OF NEW YORK

10476

IN SENATE

May 15, 2026

Introduced by Sen. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to authorizing crisis responders assisting veterans and first responders in mental health emergencies to display a green flashing light

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that veterans, first responders, and emergency personnel experiencing acute mental health crises, including suicidal ideation and substance-related emergencies, require rapid intervention by trained crisis responders. Timely response can be the difference between life and death. The legislature further finds that permitting authorized crisis responders to display a green flashing light--similar to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance personnel--will enhance roadway visibility, promote public awareness, and support safer and more efficient crisis response.

§ 2. Subparagraph (b) of paragraph 5 of subdivision 41 of section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 71 of the laws of 2024, is amended to read as follows:

(b) As used in this paragraph the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(i) "volunteer ambulance service" means: (A) a non-profit membership corporation (other than a fire corporation) incorporated under or subject to the provisions of the [~~membership corporations~~] **not-for-profit corporation** law, or any other law, operating its ambulance or ambulances on a non-profit basis for the convenience of the members thereof and their families or of the community or under a contract with a county, city, town or village pursuant to section one hundred twenty-two-b of the general municipal law; or

(B) an unincorporated association of persons operating its ambulance or ambulances on a non-profit basis for the convenience of the members and their families or of the community; [~~and~~]

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

LBD14155-01-5

(ii) "mobile crisis team" shall have the same meaning as mobile crisis teams as defined by paragraph eleven of subdivision (a) of section 36.03 of the mental hygiene law[~~.~~]; and

(iii) "crisis responder" shall mean an individual: (A) who is a veteran, first responder, or trained peer crisis specialist; and

(B) who is affiliated with, or volunteering for, a recognized crisis-response program serving veterans and/or first responders, including programs addressing PTSD, substance-use emergencies, and suicide prevention; and

(C) who has completed crisis-intervention training approved by the New York state division of veterans' services, the office of mental health, or the office of addiction services and supports.

(I) An authorized crisis responder may equip one motor vehicle with a green light as prescribed by the commissioner, which may be displayed while responding to an active mental health or suicide-prevention emergency involving a veteran or first responder.

(II) The display of such green light shall not confer any special right-of-way privileges and shall be used solely to request the courtesy of other motorists to yield.

(III) Crisis responders displaying a green light under this subdivision shall be subject to all applicable rules and regulations governing volunteer emergency vehicle lighting.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.