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

6304

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

March 2, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. GORDON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Local Governments

AN ACT to amend the volunteer firefighters' benefit law and the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law, in relation to medical assistance rendered by firefighters and EMS personnel while such workers are off duty or outside their jurisdiction or area of responsibility

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. This legislation is designed to protect the citizens of the state of New York by encouraging the provision of emergency medical services by trained medical personnel. By offering firefighters and EMS personnel coverage under the volunteer firefighters' benefit law and the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law, this legislation encourages such workers to continue to assist at emergencies regardless of accident location or whether they are off duty. Currently, there is a strong disincentive to assist in an emergency situation if the location of the accident is outside the worker's jurisdiction or if the worker is off duty. This legislation will eliminate this disincentive and will do away with the dilemma faced by emergency medical services workers when they are the first to arrive at an accident scene while off duty or at an accident scene that is out of their jurisdiction. This bill will also improve the general welfare of the citizens of the state by improving the availability of trained medical personnel.

S 2. Subdivision 1 of section 5 of the volunteer firefighters' benefit law is amended by adding a new paragraph q to read as follows:

Q. WHILE, WITHIN THIS COUNTRY, ASSISTING IN EXTINGUISHING A FIRE OR RENDERING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE WHILE OFF DUTY OR WHILE AT THE SCENE OF A FIRE OR AN ACCIDENT THAT IS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OR AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER.

S 3. Subdivision 1 of section 5 of the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law is amended by adding a new paragraph l to read as follows:

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

LBD01709-02-9

L. WHILE, WITHIN THIS COUNTRY, RENDERING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE WHILE OFF DUTY OR WHILE AT THE SCENE OF A FIRE OR AN ACCIDENT THAT IS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OR AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKER.

S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.