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

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2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

June 5, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. CHRISTENSEN, JAFFEE, FIELDS, LUPARDO, ORTIZ -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK, GABRYSZAK, MAGEE, McENENY, REILLY -- read once and referred to the Committee on Local Governments

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to defining search and rescue teams to include voluntary and municipal search and rescue teams

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

Section 1. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section 209-ff to read as follows:

S 209-FF. SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS AND WORKERS. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS CHAPTER:

1. "SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM" MEANS ONLY A VOLUNTARY OR MUNICIPAL WILDERNESS/INLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM WHOSE MEMBERS SHALL HAVE OBTAINED THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE TO MEET QUALIFYING STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION'S OFFICE OF PUBLIC PROTECTION; INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF NEW YORK STATE; FORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOCATING AND RESCUING, OR RECOVERING, A KNOWN INDIVIDUAL OR KNOWN INDIVIDUALS, IN AN UNKNOWN LOCATION, WHOSE SAFETY MAY BE THREATENED BY CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT OR OTHER FACTORS; AND WHICH IS OPERATING NOT FOR PECUNIARY PROFIT OR FINANCIAL GAIN.

2. "VOLUNTEER SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM WORKER" MEANS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER MEMBER OF A SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM AS SPECIFIED ON A LIST REGULARLY MAINTAINED BY THE TEAM.

S 2. Subdivision 4 of section 209-bb of the general municipal law, as amended by chapter 482 of the laws of 1997, is amended to read as follows:

4. For the purposes of this section, "specialized teams" shall mean any emergency team or squad composed of volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance workers, VOLUNTEER SEARCH AND RESCUE WORKERS or municipal

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

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employees, who shall have attained the minimum level of training or experience to meet qualifying standards established by the office of fire prevention and control, and which is administered by the state, a county, city or town for the purposes of training for or responding to a man made or natural disaster by carrying out any activities which are within the relevant training and expertise of such municipal employees or are authorized pursuant to the volunteer firefighters' benefit law or the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law but which are not normally provided by such entities.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.