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

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2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N  S E N A T E

May 14, 2013

Introduced by Sen. CARLUCCI -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Local Government in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the volunteer firefighters' benefit law and the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law, in relation to permanent and temporary total disability benefits

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

Section 1. Section 8 of the volunteer firefighters' benefit law, as amended by chapter 574 of the laws of 1998, is amended to read as follows:

S 8. Permanent total disability benefits. In the case of total disability adjudged to be permanent the volunteer firefighter shall be paid [four hundred] SIX HUNDRED FIFTY dollars for each week during the continuance thereof. Permanent total disability, within the meaning of this section, shall exist only if the earning capacity of the volunteer firefighter has been lost permanently and totally as the result of the injury. The loss of both hands, or both arms, or both feet, or both legs, or both eyes, or any two thereof, shall, in the absence of conclusive proof to the contrary, constitute permanent total disability, but in all other cases permanent total disability shall be determined in accordance with the facts. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, an injured volunteer firefighter disabled due to the loss or total loss of use of both eyes, or both hands, or both arms, or both feet, or both legs, or any two thereof shall not suffer any diminution of such weekly benefit by engaging in business or employment provided his or her weekly earnings or wages, when combined with his or her week-

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

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ly benefit shall not be in excess of [six hundred] NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE dollars; and further provided that the application of this section shall not result in reduction of benefits which an injured volunteer firefighter who is disabled due to the loss or total loss of use of both eyes, or both hands, or both arms, or both feet, or both legs, or any two thereof would otherwise be entitled to under any other provisions of this article.

S 2. Section 9 of the volunteer firefighters' benefit law, as amended by chapter 924 of the laws of 1990, is amended to read as follows:

S 9. Temporary total disability benefits. In the case of temporary total disability the volunteer firefighter shall be paid one hundred twenty-five dollars for each week during the continuance thereof; provided, however, that when the volunteer firefighter is injured in the line of duty on or after July first, nineteen hundred seventy-eight to December thirty-first, nineteen hundred seventy-eight, said firefighter shall receive one hundred eighty dollars per week during the continuance thereof; and further provided, that when the volunteer firefighter is injured in the line of duty on or after January first, nineteen hundred seventy-nine to June thirtieth, nineteen hundred eighty-three, said firefighter shall receive two hundred fifteen dollars per week during the continuance thereof; and further provided, that when the volunteer firefighter is injured in the line of duty on or after July first, nineteen hundred eighty-three to June thirtieth, nineteen hundred eighty-four, said firefighter shall receive two hundred fifty-five dollars per week during the continuance thereof; and further provided, that when the volunteer firefighter is injured in the line of duty on or after July first, nineteen hundred eighty-four to June thirtieth, nineteen hundred eighty-five, said firefighter shall receive two hundred seventy-five dollars per week during the continuance thereof; and further provided, that when the volunteer firefighter is injured in the line of duty on or after July first, nineteen hundred eighty-five to June thirtieth, nineteen hundred ninety, said firefighter shall receive three hundred dollars per week during the continuance thereof; and further provided, that when the volunteer firefighter is injured in the line of duty on or after July first, nineteen hundred ninety to June thirtieth, nineteen hundred ninety-one, said firefighter shall receive three hundred forty dollars per week during the continuance thereof; and further provided, that when a volunteer firefighter is injured in the line of duty on or after July first, nineteen hundred ninety-one to June thirtieth, nineteen hundred ninety-two, said firefighter shall receive three hundred fifty dollars per week during the continuance thereof; and further provided, that when a volunteer firefighter is injured in the line of duty on or after July first, nineteen hundred ninety-two TO DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN, said firefighter shall receive four hundred dollars per week during the continuance thereof; AND FURTHER PROVIDED, THAT WHEN A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER IS INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY ON OR AFTER JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN, SAID FIREFIGHTER SHALL RECEIVE SIX HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS DURING THE CONTINUANCE THEREOF. Temporary total disability, within the meaning of this section, shall exist only if the earning capacity of the volunteer firefighter has been lost temporarily and totally as the result of the injury. In case of temporary total disability and permanent partial disability both resulting from the same injury, if the temporary total disability continues for a longer period than the number of weeks set forth in the following schedule, the period of temporary total disability in excess of such number of weeks shall be added to the period provided in section ten of

this article: arm, thirty-two weeks; leg, forty weeks; hand, thirty-two weeks; foot, thirty-two weeks; ear, twenty-five weeks; eye, twenty weeks; thumb, twenty-four weeks; first finger, eighteen weeks; great toe, twelve weeks; second finger, twelve weeks; third finger, eight weeks; fourth finger, eight weeks; toe other than great toe, eight weeks. In any case resulting in loss or partial loss of use of arm, leg, hand, foot, ear, eye, thumb, finger or toe, where the temporary total disability does not extend beyond the periods above mentioned for such injury, benefits shall be limited to the schedule contained in section ten of this article.

S 3. Section 8 of the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law, as amended by chapter 574 of the laws of 1998, is amended to read as follows:

S 8. Permanent total disability benefits. In the case of total disability adjudged to be permanent the volunteer ambulance worker shall be paid [four hundred] SIX HUNDRED FIFTY dollars for each week during the continuance thereof. Permanent total disability, within the meaning of this section, shall exist only if the earning capacity of the volunteer ambulance worker has been lost permanently and totally as the result of the injury. The loss of both hands, or both arms, or both feet, or both legs, or both eyes, or any two thereof, shall, in the absence of conclusive proof to the contrary, constitute permanent total disability, but in all other cases permanent total disability shall be determined in accordance with the facts. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, an injured volunteer ambulance worker disabled due to the loss or total loss of use of both eyes, or both hands, or both arms, or both feet, or both legs, or any two thereof shall not suffer any diminution of such weekly benefit by engaging in business or employment provided his or her weekly earnings or wages, when combined with his weekly benefit shall not be in excess of [six hundred] NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE dollars; and further provided that the application of this section shall not result in reduction of benefits which an injured volunteer ambulance worker who is disabled due to the loss or total loss of use of both eyes, or both hands, or both arms, or both feet, or both legs, or any two thereof would otherwise be entitled to under any other provisions of this article.

S 4. Section 9 of the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law, as amended by chapter 924 of the laws of 1990, is amended to read as follows:

S 9. Temporary total disability benefits. In the case of temporary total disability the volunteer ambulance worker shall be paid three hundred dollars for each week during the continuance thereof; provided, however, that when the volunteer ambulance worker is injured in the line of duty on or after the effective date of this chapter to June thirtieth, nineteen hundred ninety; further provided, that when the volunteer ambulance worker is injured in the line of duty on or after July first, nineteen hundred ninety to June thirtieth, nineteen hundred ninety-one, said ambulance worker shall receive three hundred forty dollars per week during the continuance thereof, and further provided, that when a volunteer ambulance worker is injured in the line of duty on or after July first, nineteen hundred ninety-one to June thirtieth, nineteen hundred ninety-two, said ambulance worker shall receive three hundred fifty dollars per week during the continuance thereof; provided further that when a volunteer ambulance worker is injured in the line of duty on or after July first, nineteen hundred ninety-two TO DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN such ambulance worker shall be paid four hundred

dollars for each week during the continuance thereof; PROVIDED FURTHER THAT WHEN A VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKER IS INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY ON OR AFTER JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN SUCH AMBULANCE WORKER SHALL BE PAID SIX HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS FOR EACH WEEK DURING THE CONTINUANCE THEREOF. Temporary total disability, within the meaning of this section, shall exist only if the earning capacity of the volunteer ambulance worker has been lost temporarily and totally as the result of the injury. In case of temporary total disability and permanent partial disability both resulting from the same injury, if the temporary total disability continues for a longer period than the number of weeks set forth in the following schedule, the period of temporary total disability in excess of such number of weeks shall be added to the period provided in section ten of this [chapter] ARTICLE: arm, thirty-two weeks; leg, forty weeks; hand, thirty-two weeks; foot, thirty-two weeks; ear, twenty-five weeks; eye, twenty weeks; thumb, twenty-four weeks; first finger, eighteen weeks; great toe, twelve weeks; second finger, twelve weeks; third finger, eight weeks, fourth finger, eight weeks; toe other than great toe, eight weeks. In any case resulting in loss or partial loss of use of arm, leg, hand, foot, ear, eye, thumb, finger or toe, where the temporary total disability does not extend beyond the periods above mentioned for such injury, benefits shall be limited to the schedule contained in section ten of this [chapter] ARTICLE.

S 5. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2015.