

STATE OF NEW YORK

4241--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 1, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT, PEOPLES-STOKES, BENEDETTO, CUSICK, HEVESI, JAFFEE, LUPARDO, TITONE, ZEBROWSKI, CRESPO, FAHY, WEPRIN, COOK, COLTON, D'URSO, HARRIS, JEAN-PIERRE, JENNE, McDONALD, ORTIZ, RODRIGUEZ, SANTABARBARA, SEPULVEDA, SIMANOWITZ, SKOUFIS, STIRPE, WOERNER, CROUCH, FRIEND, LUPINACCI, MALLIOTAKIS, BLAKE, KEARNS, JOHNS, B. MILLER -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ABBATE, BLANKENBUSH, GALEF, MAGEE, SIMON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to enacting the New York emergency responder act

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New York emergency responder act".

§ 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 29-f to read as follows:

§ 29-f. The New York emergency responder act. 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Public official" shall mean any appointed or elected federal, state or local official with executive responsibility in the jurisdiction in which the emergency or event has occurred, and acting in his or her official capacity.

(b) "Public safety official" shall mean any appointed or elected federal, state or local official with executive responsibility to coordinate public safety in the jurisdiction in which the emergency or event has occurred, and acting in his or her official capacity.

(c) "Law enforcement official" shall mean any appointed or elected federal, state or local official with executive responsibility to coordinate law enforcement in the jurisdiction in which the emergency or event has occurred, and acting in his or her official capacity.

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

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1 (d) "Code enforcement official" shall mean any appointed or elected
2 federal, state or local official with executive responsibility to coor-
3 ordinate building inspection in the jurisdiction in which the emergency or
4 event has occurred, and acting in his or her official capacity.

5 (e) "Declared emergency" shall mean any state disaster emergency
6 declaration or local emergency order proclamation, by a public official,
7 of the occurrence or imminent threat of a disaster or rioting, catastro-
8 phe or similar public emergency, or in the event of reasonable apprehen-
9 sion of immediate danger thereof, and upon a finding by the public offi-
10 cial that the public safety is imperiled thereby.

11 (f) "Municipal corporation" shall mean a county, town, city or
12 village.

13 (g) "State department" shall mean those state government departments,
14 divisions or commissions empowered by the state to enter into contractu-
15 al agreements on behalf of the state.

16 (h) "State authority" shall mean a public authority or public benefit
17 corporation created by or existing under this chapter or any other law
18 of the state, with one or more of its members appointed by the governor
19 or who serve as members by virtue of holding a civil office of the
20 state, other than an interstate or international authority or public
21 benefit corporation, including subsidiaries of such public authority or
22 public benefit corporation.

23 (i) "Local authority" shall mean: (1) a public authority or public
24 benefit corporation created by or existing under this chapter or any
25 other law of the state whose members do not hold a civil office of the
26 state, are not appointed by the governor or are appointed by the gover-
27 nor specifically upon the recommendation of the local government or
28 governments; (2) a not-for-profit corporation affiliated with, sponsored
29 by or created by a county, city, town or village government; (3) a local
30 industrial development agency or authority of another local public bene-
31 fit corporation; (4) an affiliate of such local authority; or (5) a land
32 bank corporation created pursuant to article sixteen of the not-for-pro-
33 fit corporation law.

34 (j) "School district" shall mean any common school district, union
35 free school district, central school district, city school district, or
36 central high school district.

37 (k) "Special district" shall mean a town or county improvement
38 district, district corporation or other district established for the
39 purpose of carrying on, performing or financing one or more improvements
40 or services intended to benefit the health, welfare, safety or conven-
41 ience of the inhabitants of such district or to benefit the real proper-
42 ty within such district, and in which real property is subject to
43 special ad valorem levies or special assessments for the purposes for
44 which such district was established.

45 (l) "Emergency assistance" shall mean (1) any assistance or advice,
46 furnishing of construction, supplies, materials, equipment or labor; (2)
47 provision of structural, electrical, mechanical or other engineering
48 services rendered pursuant to article one hundred forty-five of the
49 education law; (3) architectural services rendered pursuant to article
50 one hundred forty-seven of the education law; (4) landscape architec-
51 tural services rendered pursuant to article one hundred forty-eight of
52 the education law; (5) land surveying services rendered pursuant to
53 article one hundred forty-five of the education law; or (6) geological
54 services rendered pursuant to article one hundred forty-five of the
55 education law arising from or in connection with an actual or impending

1 declared emergency, or national, state or local disaster, as defined in
2 paragraph a of subdivision two of section twenty of this article.

3 2. Subject to paragraphs (a) through (g) of this subdivision, any
4 person, corporation or other entity, and the employees and agents of
5 such person, corporation or other entity, which provides emergency
6 assistance either on a voluntary basis at the request of a public offi-
7 cial, law enforcement official, public safety official or code enforce-
8 ment official, municipal corporation, state department, state authority,
9 local authority, school district or special district; or pursuant to a
10 contract with a public official, law enforcement official, public safety
11 official or code enforcement official, municipal corporation, state
12 department, state authority, local authority, school district or special
13 district; shall not be liable for any civil damages for injuries result-
14 ing from any act of commission or omission on his or her part in the
15 course of his or her rendering such assistance unless it is established
16 that such injuries were caused by gross negligence, or reckless, wanton
17 or intentional misconduct, on the part of such person arising from,
18 directly or indirectly, the person, corporation or entity, or the
19 employees or agents of such person, corporation or entity, relating to
20 the rendering or furnishing of the voluntary or contractual emergency
21 assistance in connection with the disaster or emergency, provided that
22 the emergency assistance consists of acts, advice, service, work, labor,
23 materials, supplies, equipment or other activities that are consistent
24 with the nature of and rendered pursuant to the request for, consent to,
25 approval of, or contract for such emergency assistance.

26 (a) The rights and benefits provided in this subdivision shall apply
27 with respect to all emergency assistance furnished within the period
28 ending on the later of (1) sixty days after the emergency is declared
29 terminated by the authorized public official, or (2) thirty days after
30 the applicable official, municipal corporation, department or authority
31 advises the private person, corporation or other entity that is provid-
32 ing the emergency assistance in writing that the emergency assistance is
33 completed.

34 (b) The rights and benefits provided in this section shall apply in
35 all cases except upon a showing that assistance or advice rendered, or a
36 service furnished for or in connection with an impending or actual
37 declared national, state or local disaster or emergency was performed
38 pursuant to a separate written agreement for work to be performed or
39 services to be rendered after the conclusion of the emergency assistance
40 where the primary purpose of such agreement is the design or
41 construction of a permanent repair, restoration, correction or other
42 remedy of the conditions that caused or were damaged by the declared
43 emergency, or national, state or local disaster, as defined in paragraph
44 a of subdivision two of section twenty of this article.

45 (c) Where a person, corporation or other entity, or the employees or
46 agents of any person, corporation or other entity renders advice or
47 services at the request of a state or local employee or official and
48 where such advice or services fall within the ambit of the rights and
49 benefits provided in this section, the liability of the state or locali-
50 ty, if any, which requested the services shall not be affected by the
51 provisions of this section.

52 (d) The rights and benefits provided in this section shall not apply
53 to persons, corporations or other entities (1) whose primary business or
54 occupation, at the time of the occurrence of the disaster or circum-
55 stances that gave rise to the declared emergency for which emergency
56 assistance was provided, is one of providing emergency first responder

1 services in response to declared emergencies, and national, state or
2 local disasters, as defined in paragraph a of subdivision two of section
3 twenty of this article; or (2) is regularly engaged in the business of
4 manufacturing equipment that is intended for general use in emergency
5 response operations.

6 (e) The rights and benefits provided in this section shall not apply
7 to persons, corporations or other entities whose negligence or willful
8 misconduct caused, in whole or in material part, the disaster or
9 declared emergency.

10 (f) Nothing in this section shall affect the rights and benefits of
11 individuals expressly authorized to participate in volunteer emergency
12 response activities under the direction of or in connection with a
13 community emergency response team, county emergency management agency,
14 state emergency management agency, state-sponsored volunteer program or
15 federal emergency management agency.

16 (g) The rights and benefits provided in this section shall not affect
17 the rights of individuals to seek workers' compensation insurance
18 compensation and other benefits thereunder.

19 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.