

STATE OF NEW YORK

4135

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 3, 2017

Introduced by Sens. SAVINO, AKSHAR, AVELLA, BOYLE, CARLUCCI, GALLIVAN, PERALTA, SEWARD, VALESKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

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:

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

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

5 § 29-f. The New York emergency responder act. 1. As used in this
6 section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

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

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

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

19 (d) "Code enforcement official" shall mean any appointed or elected
20 federal, state or local official with executive responsibility to coor-
21 ordinate building inspection in the jurisdiction in which the emergency or
22 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 (e) "Declared emergency" shall mean any state disaster emergency
2 declaration or local emergency order proclamation, by a public official,
3 of the occurrence or imminent threat of a disaster or rioting, catastro-
4 phe or similar public emergency, or in the event of reasonable apprehen-
5 sion of immediate danger thereof, and upon a finding by the public offi-
6 cial that the public safety is imperiled thereby.

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

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

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

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

30 (j) "School district" shall mean any common school district, union
31 free school district, central school district, city school district, or
32 central high school district.

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

41 (l) "Emergency assistance" shall mean (1) any assistance or advice,
42 furnishing of construction, supplies, materials, equipment or labor; (2)
43 provision of structural, electrical, mechanical or other engineering
44 services rendered pursuant to article one hundred forty-five of the
45 education law; (3) architectural services rendered pursuant to article
46 one hundred forty-seven of the education law; (4) landscape architec-
47 tural services rendered pursuant to article one hundred forty-eight of
48 the education law; (5) land surveying services rendered pursuant to
49 article one hundred forty-five of the education law; or (6) geological
50 services rendered pursuant to article one hundred forty-five of the
51 education law arising from or in connection with an actual or impending
52 declared emergency, or national, state or local disaster, as defined in
53 paragraph a of subdivision two of section twenty of this article.

54 2. Any private person, corporation or other entity, and the employees
55 and agents of such person, corporation or other entity, which provides
56 emergency assistance either on a voluntary basis at the request or with

1 the consent or approval of a public official, law enforcement official,
2 public safety official or code enforcement official, municipal corpo-
3 ration, state department, state authority, local authority, school
4 district or special district; or pursuant to a contract with a public
5 official, law enforcement official, public safety official or code
6 enforcement official, municipal corporation, state department, state
7 authority, local authority, school district or special district; shall
8 not be subject to suit or claim, nor liable for any personal injury,
9 wrongful death, property damage, economic loss or any other damage, loss
10 or claim caused by or arising from, directly or indirectly, the person,
11 corporation or entity, or the employees or agents of such person, corpo-
12 ration or entity, relating to the rendering or furnishing of the volun-
13 tary or contractual emergency assistance in connection with the disaster
14 or emergency, except as set forth in paragraph (b) of this subdivision
15 provided that the emergency assistance consists of acts, advice,
16 service, work, labor, materials, supplies, equipment or other activities
17 that are consistent with the nature of and rendered pursuant to the
18 request for, consent to, approval of, or contract for such emergency
19 assistance.

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

28 (b) The rights and benefits provided in this section shall apply in
29 all cases except upon a showing that assistance or advice rendered, or a
30 service furnished for or in connection with an impending or actual
31 declared national, state or local disaster or emergency (1) was
32 performed in a manner that constitutes wanton, willful or intentional
33 misconduct, or gross negligence, or (2) was performed pursuant to a
34 separate written agreement for work to be performed or services to be
35 rendered after the conclusion of the emergency assistance where the
36 primary purpose of such agreement is the design or construction of a
37 permanent repair, restoration, correction or other remedy of the condi-
38 tions that caused or were damaged by the declared emergency, or
39 national, state or local disaster, as defined in paragraph a of subdivi-
40 sion two of section twenty of this article.

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

48 (d) The rights and benefits provided in this section shall not apply
49 to persons, corporations or other entities whose primary business or
50 occupation, at the time of the occurrence of the disaster or circum-
51 stances that gave rise to the declared emergency for which emergency
52 assistance was provided, is one of providing emergency first responder
53 services in response to declared emergencies, and national, state or
54 local disasters, as defined in paragraph a of subdivision two of section
55 twenty of this article.

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

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

11 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.