

STATE OF NEW YORK

2812

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 27, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. JONES, WOERNER, COOK, RIVERA, MORINELLO, BLANKENBUSH, BUTTENSCHON, SIMPSON, LUPARDO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Local Governments

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to the establishment of special districts for general ambulance services; and to amend the executive law, in relation to a report on volunteer firefighter and ambulance services staffing

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

Section 1. Paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of subdivision 1 of section 122-b of the general municipal law, as amended by chapter 303 of the laws of 1980 and paragraph (e) as amended by section 2 of part KK of chapter 55 of the laws of 2022, are amended and a new closing paragraph is added to read as follows:

(d) Establish a special district for the financing and operation of general ambulance services as set forth by this section, whereby any county, city, town or village, acting individually, or jointly with any other county, city, town and/or village, through its governing body or bodies, following applicable procedures as are required for the establishment of fire districts in article eleven of the town law or following applicable procedures as are required for the establishment of joint fire districts in article eleven-A of the town law, with such special district being authorized by this section to be established in all or any part of any such participating county or counties, town or towns, city or cities and/or village or villages;

(e) Employ any combination of the methods authorized in paragraph (a), (b) ~~[ex]~~, (c) or (d);

~~(f)~~ (f) A contract may be entered into pursuant to the provisions of this section for the services of an emergency rescue and first aid squad of a fire department or fire company which is subject to the provisions of section two hundred nine-b of this chapter;

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

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1 [~~(f)~~] (g) Consider prehospital emergency treatment as that care
2 provided by certified emergency medical technicians or certified
3 advanced emergency medical technicians certified pursuant to the
4 provisions of article thirty of the public health law.

5 Any county, city, town or village which establishes or participates in
6 a joint district pursuant to paragraph (d) of this subdivision shall
7 dissolve and abolish any preexisting local district serving the same
8 jurisdiction.

9 § 2. Paragraph (e) of subdivision 1 of section 122-b of the general
10 municipal law, as amended by chapter 303 of the laws of 1980, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 [~~(e)~~] (f) No contract shall be entered into pursuant to the provisions
13 of this section for the services of an emergency rescue and first aid
14 squad of a fire department or fire company which is subject to the
15 provisions of section two hundred nine-b of [~~the general municipal law~~]
16 this chapter;

17 § 3. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 719 to read
18 as follows:

19 § 719. Report on volunteer firefighter and ambulance services staff-
20 ing. 1. On or before the first day of January two thousand twenty-five,
21 the commissioner, in consultation with the state office of fire
22 prevention and control, shall prepare and publish a report on the staff-
23 ing of volunteer firefighter and ambulance services in New York state.
24 Such report shall examine and evaluate the challenges and issues
25 concerning the recruiting and maintenance of trained, available staffing
26 by volunteer fire departments, districts and companies as well as for
27 volunteer ambulance districts and companies. Such report shall specif-
28 ically examine and evaluate the challenges and issues that are partic-
29 ular to rural areas of the state and areas with geographic challenges
30 such as mountains, waterways or limited transportation networks.

31 2. In addition to identifying challenges and issues concerning the
32 recruiting and maintenance of trained, available staffing by volunteer
33 fire departments, districts and companies as well as for volunteer ambu-
34 lance districts and companies across New York state, as required by
35 subdivision one of this section, such report shall also make recommenda-
36 tions on how to address and remediate the challenges and issues identi-
37 fied, with such recommendations being submitted to the governor, the
38 temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the
39 chair of the senate standing committee on local government and the chair
40 of the assembly standing committee on local government at the time of
41 the publishing of the report.

42 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that
43 the amendments to paragraph (e) of subdivision 1 of section 122-b of the
44 general municipal law made by section one of this act shall be subject
45 to the expiration and reversion of such paragraph pursuant to section 4
46 of part KK of chapter 55 of the laws of 2022, when upon such date the
47 provisions of section two of this act shall take effect.