

STATE OF NEW YORK

9345

IN ASSEMBLY

March 6, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. KELLES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Local Governments

AN ACT to amend the not-for-profit corporation law, in relation to exempting the Varna Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., from the forty-five percent limit on non-resident members

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

1 Section 1. Subparagraph 3 of paragraph (c) of section 1402 of the
2 not-for-profit corporation law, as separately amended by chapters 383,
3 424, 431 and 463 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:
4 (3) In towns outside of villages and fire districts, the consent of a
5 majority of the members of the town board to the formation of a fire
6 corporation shall constitute an appointment of the persons named in the
7 certificate of incorporation as town firefighters. Thereafter, other
8 eligible persons may be elected as members pursuant to the by-laws of
9 the fire corporation, but the election of a member must be approved by
10 the town board of each town which consented to the formation of the fire
11 corporation. Such a person shall be a resident of the territory speci-
12 fied in the certificate of incorporation or of territory outside such
13 boundaries which is afforded fire protection by the fire corporation
14 pursuant to a contract for fire protection under which a cash consider-
15 ation is received by the corporation or for which negotiations for
16 renewal of such a contract are pending. The membership of any volunteer
17 member shall terminate when he or she ceases to be a resident of such
18 inside or outside territory, except that the corporation may authorize
19 his or her continued membership where he or she notifies the secretary
20 of the fire corporation (a) that he or she plans to change his or her
21 residence to a territory which is not in such inside or outside territo-
22 ry, and (b) that by reason of his or her residence in the vicinity or
23 his or her usual occupation he or she will be available to render active
24 service as a volunteer firefighter in either such inside or such outside
25 territory. Voting for such authorization shall be pursuant to the
26 by-laws. Such authorization shall not become effective unless approved
27 by resolution of the town board of each town which consented to the

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

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1 formation of the corporation. Any membership so continued shall termi-
2 nate when the member can no longer meet the requirements of this subpar-
3 agraph. A person who cannot meet the residence requirements of this
4 subparagraph may be elected to membership as a volunteer member if by
5 reason of his or her residence in the vicinity or his or her usual occu-
6 pation he or she will be available to render active service as a volun-
7 teer firefighter in such inside or outside territory. Voting for such
8 election shall be pursuant to the by-laws. Such election shall not
9 become effective unless approved by resolution of the town board of each
10 town which consented to the formation of the corporation. Such member-
11 ship shall terminate when the member can no longer meet the requirements
12 of this subparagraph. The election or continuance of any person as a
13 member shall be deemed to have been approved by the town board pursuant
14 to this subparagraph in the event that no action is taken by the town
15 board, either approving or disapproving, within forty days in the case
16 of residents of the territory specified in the certificate of incorpo-
17 ration or of outside contract territory, and within seventy days in the
18 case of all others, after service of written notice of such election or
19 continuance of membership shall have been made by the secretary of the
20 corporation upon the town clerk, either personally or by mail. The
21 membership of any volunteer firefighter shall not be continued pursuant
22 to this subparagraph, and persons who do not reside in the territory
23 specified in the certificate of incorporation or in territory protected
24 pursuant to a contract for fire protection shall not be elected to
25 membership, if, by so doing, the percentage of such nonresident members
26 in the fire corporation would exceed forty-five per centum of the actual
27 membership thereof, provided, however, that the forty-five percent limit
28 on non-resident members shall not apply to the membership of the Huguen-
29 ot Fire Company, Inc., within the town of Deerpark, Orange county, to
30 the membership of the Prospect Terrace Fire Company, Inc., within the
31 town of Dickinson, Broome county, to membership of the Hopewell Volun-
32 teer Fire Department, Inc., to membership of the Wales Center Volunteer
33 Fire Company, Inc., within the town of Wales, Erie county, to the
34 membership of the Nedrow Fire Department, within the town of Onondaga,
35 Onondaga county, to the membership of the Howlett Hill Fire Department,
36 within the town of Onondaga, Onondaga county, to the membership of the
37 Southwood Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., within the town of Onondaga,
38 Onondaga county, to the membership of the East Syracuse Fire Department,
39 within the town of Dewitt, Onondaga county, to the membership of the
40 Camillus Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., within the town of Camillus,
41 Onondaga county, to the membership of the Pleasant Square Fire Company,
42 Inc. within the town of Johnstown, Fulton county, to the membership of
43 the East Amherst Fire Department, Inc., within the town of Amherst, Erie
44 county, to the membership of the Crittenden Volunteer Fire Department,
45 Inc., within the town of Alden, Erie county, to membership of the fire
46 departments within the town of Fleming, Cayuga county, to membership of
47 the Bushnell's Basin Fire Department, in the town of Perinton, Monroe
48 county, to the membership of the East Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Company,
49 Inc. within the town of Dunkirk, Chautauqua county, to the membership
50 of the Varna Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., within the town of Dryden,
51 Tompkins county, to the membership of the Leeds Hose Company No. 1, Inc.
52 within the town of Catskill, Greene county or to membership of the Sali-
53 na Consolidated Fire District #2, in the town of Salina, Onondaga coun-
54 ty. Nonresidents of the territory specified in the certificate of incor-
55 poration whose volunteer membership has been authorized or continued
56 pursuant to this subparagraph may be elected or appointed to any office

1 in the fire corporation and shall have all the powers, duties, immuni-
2 ties, and privileges of resident volunteer members except a non-resident
3 of this state whose membership has been continued pursuant to this
4 subparagraph, or who was elected to membership pursuant to this subpara-
5 graph, shall not be considered to be performing any firefighting duty,
6 or to be engaged in any firefighting activity, as a member of the fire
7 company while he or she is outside of this state unless and until he or
8 she has first reported to the officer or firefighter in command of his
9 or her fire department, or any company, squad or other unit thereof,
10 engaged or to be engaged in rendering service outside this state, or has
11 received orders or authorization from an officer of the fire department
12 or fire company to participate in or attend authorized activities
13 outside of this state in the same manner as resident members of the fire
14 company. A person shall not be eligible to volunteer membership in any
15 other fire corporation or fire company at one time. The provisions of
16 this subparagraph shall not be deemed to authorize the election or the
17 continuance of any person as a member of the corporation if such
18 election or continuance of membership shall be contrary to the by-laws,
19 rules or regulations of the fire corporation.

20 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.