STATE OF NEW YORK

3039

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 27, 2023

Introduced by Sens. STEC, GALLIVAN, OBERACKER, ORTT, TEDISCO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

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) [~~or~~], (c) **or (d)**;

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

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

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

[~~(e)~~] (f) No contract shall 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 [~~the general municipal law~~] this chapter;

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

§ 719. Report on volunteer firefighter and ambulance services staffing. 1. On or before the first day of January two thousand twenty-five, the commissioner, in consultation with the state office of fire prevention and control, shall prepare and publish a report on the staffing of volunteer firefighter and ambulance services in New York state. Such report shall examine and evaluate the challenges and issues concerning the recruiting and maintenance of trained, available staffing by volunteer fire departments, districts and companies as well as for volunteer ambulance districts and companies. Such report shall specifically examine and evaluate the challenges and issues that are particular to rural areas of the state and areas with geographic challenges such as mountains, waterways or limited transportation networks.

2. In addition to identifying challenges and issues concerning the recruiting and maintenance of trained, available staffing by volunteer fire departments, districts and companies as well as for volunteer ambulance districts and companies across New York state, as required by subdivision one of this section, such report shall also make recommendations on how to address and remediate the challenges and issues identified, with such recommendations being submitted to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the chair of the senate standing committee on local government and the chair of the assembly standing committee on local government at the time of the publishing of the report.

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