STATE OF NEW YORK

6645

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 3, 2023

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to exempting ambulances and emergency medical services vehicles from paying tolls on the New York state thruway when engaged in an emergency operation

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

Section 1. Section 378-a of the public authorities law, as added by chapter 23 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

§ 378-a. Emergency service permits. 1. The authority is hereby authorized and directed to [~~issue refunds for tolls incurred by ambulances or fire vehicles engaged in an emergency operation, or, at the option of the authority, to~~] issue emergency services permits for use by ambulances, emergency medical services vehicles, and fire vehicles which shall provide for travel at no charge between interchanges and barriers while such vehicles are engaged in an emergency operation. For purposes of this section, the term "ambulance" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined by section one hundred-b of the vehicle and traffic law, the term "fire vehicle" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined by section one hundred fifteen-a of the vehicle and traffic law, and the term "emergency operation" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined by section one hundred fourteen-b of the vehicle and traffic law. For the purposes of this section, the term "emergency medical services vehicle" shall mean an appropriately equipped motor vehicle owned or operated by an emergency medical services agency as defined in section three thousand one of the public health law and used for the purpose of transporting emergency medical personnel and equipment to sick or injured persons. In any rules and regulations promulgated for the implementation of this section, the authority may establish the type of documentation or other proof satisfactory to the authority

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

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that an ambulance or fire vehicle was engaged in an emergency operation at the time a toll was incurred.

2. If, upon the completion of an audit conducted by a certified public accountant selected by the authority, the authority can demonstrate that the issuance of [~~refunds or~~] permits as authorized in subdivision one of this section causes a significant loss of revenue to the authority, the authority is authorized, pursuant to a resolution of the board, to offer such [~~refunds or~~] permits at a discount of the cash cost per mile; provided, however, that, prior to such board resolution, the authority shall hold at least two public hearings, at a time and location which will, to the extent practicable, maximize the participation of the general public.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.