# STATE OF NEW YORK

8232

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

# IN SENATE

May 27, 2025

Introduced by Sen. STEWART-COUSINS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend chapter 123 of the laws of 1945 incorporating the volunteer and exempt firemen's benevolent association of Thornwood, New York, in relation to the purposes of the volunteer and exempt firefighters' benevolent association of Thornwood, New York

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

Section 1. Section 1 of chapter 123 of the laws of 1945 incorporating the volunteer and exempt firemen's benevolent association of Thornwood, New York is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. A corporation by the name of "Volunteer and Exempt [~~Firemen's~~] Firefighters' Benevolent Association of Thornwood, New York" is hereby created. It shall be composed of such active members of the Thornwood fire department and such exempt volunteer [~~firemen~~] firefighters, as defined in section [~~two hundred~~] 200 of the general municipal law or any other applicable law, who have acquired such status by virtue of having rendered service in any company in the Thornwood fire department[~~,~~] as shall:

(a) notify the secretary of their company, in writing, prior to the organization meeting of the corporation created by this act, which meeting is hereinafter provided for, of their desire to become members, or

(b) attend such organization meeting or an adjournment thereof, or

(c) notify the secretary of such corporation, in writing, within sixty days after [~~his~~] such firefighter's election, of their desire to become members thereof, and also such other of the active volunteer [~~firemen~~] firefighters aforesaid, or of those who may hereafter become active members of the aforesaid Thornwood fire department, or who may hereafter become exempt volunteer [~~firemen~~] firefighters, as defined in section [~~two hundred~~] 200 of the general municipal law or any other applicable law, by virtue of having rendered service in any company of said depart-

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

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ment, as may become members of such corporation pursuant to the provisions of its by-laws. Any active member of any of said companies who shall cease to be a member thereof without having acquired the status of an exempt volunteer [~~fireman~~] firefighter shall automatically be dropped from membership in such corporation. The purposes of such corporation shall be [~~the~~]: to provide relief, aid and assistance [~~of~~] to the members [~~thereof and their families,~~] of such corporation who are disabled or indigent[~~, and the promotion of~~] or injured in the performance of their duties, and their families; to promote and safeguard the welfare of the volunteer [~~fire service in the territory protected by such department~~] members of the corporation, and their families; to maintain a suitable headquarters for the members of such corporation; to provide for the health and safety of the volunteer members of such corporation; and to enhance the morale of the volunteer members of such corporation by providing for the social and recreational wellbeing of the volunteer members of the corporation, and the promotion of the volunteer fire service within the territory protected by the Thornwood fire department.

Such corporation shall have all the powers of a membership corporation, and the provisions of law relating to membership corporations shall apply to such corporation, except where they conflict with the provisions of this act.

The presidents, or other presiding officers, of the companies of said department shall call a meeting for the organization of such corporation, to be held not later than sixty days after this act takes effect, notice of which shall be given by posting a notice thereof in five conspicuous places within the territory protected by such companies and also by publication thereof in one or more newspapers having general circulation in such territory, such posting and publishing to take place at least ten days prior to the date of such meeting. At such meeting, or an adjournment thereof, the members of such corporation present shall adopt by-laws and elect officers to serve until the first annual meeting, which shall be held on a date to be fixed by the by-laws.

Any member failing to comply with the by-laws, rules or regulations duly adopted by such corporation shall be subject to expulsion in such manner as may be provided for in such by-laws. Any member who ceases to be such, voluntarily or otherwise, shall forfeit all interest in the property of such corporation.

§ 2. Section 3 of chapter 123 of the laws of 1945 incorporating the volunteer and exempt firemen's benevolent association of Thornwood, New York is amended to read as follows:

§ 3. Such corporation shall collect and there shall be paid to it all tax which is imposed by section [~~five hundred fifty-three~~] 9104 of the insurance law, for fire department use and benefit, upon premiums for insurance against loss or damage by fire covering property situated within the territory immediately protected by the aforesaid department and companies thereof, and within any duly organized territory in which any or all of such companies is or may hereafter be obligated to render protection. The officer of said corporation designated by its by-laws to collect and receive the aforesaid tax shall have the same powers as provided by law for the treasurer of a fire department with respect to such collection and receipt. Such corporation shall also be entitled to receive a share of the tax imposed by section [~~five hundred fifty-four~~] 9105 of the insurance law based upon the business written in the territory with respect to which it is entitled to collect and receive the tax under section [~~five hundred fifty-three~~] 9104 of the insurance law. Such

taxes shall only be used [~~for the care and relief of disabled or indigent volunteer and exempt firemen and their families~~] **by the corporation in furtherance of its purposes set forth in section one of this act**.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided however, that section two of this act shall apply to taxes due on premiums received on and after January 1, 2026.