

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8700

## IN SENATE

January 7, 2026

Introduced by Sen. RHOADS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to the administration of grants under the volunteer fire infrastructure and response equipment (V-FIRE) grant program

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

1 Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 709-b  
2 to read as follows:

3 § 709-b. Administration of the volunteer fire infrastructure and  
4 response equipment (V-FIRE) grant program. Funds available under the  
5 volunteer fire infrastructure and response equipment (V-FIRE) grant  
6 program administered by the division shall be awarded in equal amounts  
7 to each region of the state which have eligible departments. Regions  
8 shall be as established in article eleven of the economic development  
9 law. The division shall establish criteria for each region designed to  
10 identify eligible fire departments within each region with the greatest  
11 needs. Such criteria may limit eligibility to wholly volunteer districts  
12 but shall not prohibit awards on the basis of the size of the depart-  
13 ment's operating budget.

14 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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