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:

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

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

§ 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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