STATE OF NEW YORK

10444

IN ASSEMBLY

March 6, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. STERN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

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. 1. 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 with the exception of the New York city region. 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. Solely for the purposes of this section and notwithstanding any conflicting provision of law, eligible departments within the city of New York shall be considered a part of the Long Island region.

§ 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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