STATE OF NEW YORK

10694

IN ASSEMBLY

March 20, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to deeming certain utility workers first responders during a declared state disaster emergency

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

Section 1. Section 29-b of the executive law is amended by adding a new subdivision 4 to read as follows:

4. a. For purposes of any state disaster emergency declared pursuant to section twenty-eight of this article, employees of public utilities, municipal utilities, electric corporations, gas corporations, water corporations, steam corporations, telecommunications corporations, and cable television companies, as such terms are defined in the public service law, whose duties include the construction, operation, maintenance, repair, restoration, or protection of critical infrastructure, shall be deemed first responders while engaged in emergency response, service restoration, or infrastructure protection activities.

b. Such designation shall apply solely during the period of a declared state disaster emergency and shall be limited to access, movement, credentialing, emergency coordination, and emergency support services necessary to protect public health and safety.

c. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to confer eligibility for retirement, disability, death benefits, or any other benefit not otherwise provided by law.

§ 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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