

Urging The New York State Legislature And Governor Paterson To Take Action On Senate Bill S1624 – An Act To Amend The Vehicle And Traffic Law In Relation To The Operation Of An Emergency Vehicle Without A Commercial Driver's License

The Criminal Justice and Safety Committee (Chairman Dart and Legislators Briggs, R.A. Parete, Zimet, Hansut, Maloney and Ronk) and Legislators Aiello, Cummings, Fabiano, Felicello, Gerentine, Harris, Noonan, Petit, Roberti, Roberts and Terrizzi offer the following:

WHEREAS, across New York State many communities rely on volunteer fire departments to protect property and personal well being from the threat of fire and catastrophe, and

WHEREAS, in Ulster County as well as in counties across the state, volunteerism has decreased leaving residents vulnerable to loss of life and property, and

WHEREAS, those who give of their time and talents to protect people from such catastrophes should not be penalized in any way for doing so, and

WHEREAS, currently the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law states that the driver of an "emergency vehicle" must possess a commercial driver's license (CDL) to return such emergency vehicle from the scene, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature finds that requiring that emergency services volunteers obtain a CDL provides a hindrance to future volunteerism and threatens the safety of the citizens of Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S1624 would alleviate this burden from our volunteers and provide for better emergency services protection, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges immediate action on Senate Bill S1624, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, Senate Majority Leader Malcolm Smith, Senate Minority Leader Dean G. Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader James N. Tedisco, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Frank K. Skartados, and State Fire Administrator Floyd A. Madison and the New York State Association of Counties,

Resolution No. 75 March 11, 2009

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and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 31 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Harris and R.A. Parete)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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