

STATUS ON PENDING FIRE SERVICE LEGISLATION

6/27/11

The State Legislature has finished its most recent legislative session. The Press has reported on the items which dominated the close of the session. The session ended over the weekend with the Governor signing a legislative package that included new laws related to marriage equality, rent control continuation, the real property tax cap and mandate relief. It would appear that the primary impact this legislation will have on fire districts and the volunteer fire service relates to the real property tax cap which will limit the ability of local governments to increase spending on the provision of fire and other emergency services and the aspects of the mandate relief legislation that may permit local governments to petition for relief from specific unfunded mandates. The mandate relief provisions also contain some amendments to public purchasing laws such as opening up more avenues to purchase on federal contracts that will impact fire districts and volunteer fire companies.

The following is a list of the status of some of the bills that the volunteer fire service has been targeting:

| <u>Bill</u> | <u>Senate/ Assembly Nos.</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lever voting machines | S 5055A/ A7469 | Passed both houses as of 6/7/11; waiting for submittal to Governor |
| Volunteer membership Preservation | S 4901/ A 7303 | Passed both houses as of 6/14/11; waiting for submittal to Governor |
| Fallen Firefighter Memorial | S 4655/ A5933 | Passed both houses as of 6/17/11; waiting for submittal to Governor |
| Blue Lights on Ambulances | S 5483/ A7919 | Passed both houses as of 6/15/11; waiting for submittal to Governor |
| Seat belt exemption repeal | S 4765/ A7244 | Passed Senate 6/16/11 Assembly Transportation Committee |
| Consolidation Chapter Amendments | S 1824/ A1274A | Passed Senate 5/2/11 Assembly Local Gov't Committee |

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| Rope Safety Systems | S 2600/ A2949 | Senate 3 rd Reading Assembly Labor Committee |
| Hazmat Reimbursements | S 5444/ A7622 | Passed both houses as of 6/21/11; waiting for submittal to Governor |
| Felony Offenses & Record Check for Members | S 4931A/ A 3523A | Senate Codes Committee Assembly Gov'tal Operations Committee |
| Volunteer Firefighter Health Insurance relative to Plans other than NYSHIP | S 5092/ A 8169 | Passed Senate 6/14/11 Assembly Insurance Committee |
| Charging for Ambulance Calls | S 4856/ A7291 | Senate Local Gov't Committee Assembly Local Gov't Committee |
| Fire Commissioner Removal For Dereliction of Duty | S 3101/ A 4858 | Passed both houses as of 6/16/11; waiting for submittal to Governor |