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**New York State likely to pass several new EMS & Fire related laws this year**

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The following New York State bills have already passed the senate and assembly in 2005.

The full text of the bills can be obtained at [www.senate.state.ny.us](http://www.senate.state.ny.us) under "bills/laws"

S5827: Prohibits a county, city, town, village and fire district from contracting for fire prevention, suppression or protection within the boundaries of the municipality unless (a) the entity is was created by the municipality and subject to the supervision of the municipality, or (b) is a not for profit corporation.

S2743: Exempts the cost of fuel for emergency vehicles from the fire district spending limit.

Various laws permitting certain fire departments to accept more than 45% of their members from outside of their contracted service areas.

Various laws permitting counties of specific and limited populations to provide property tax exemptions to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. Typically, these laws pick a population size range that fits only one county.

S3894-A: Adds as peace officers the arson investigators from the Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

S1382-A: Permits a fire district to continue the service award program established by a town for a fire department in a fire protection district in the town, now in the fire district.

S6314: Increases the amount that can be borrowed under the 2% revolving loan program from \$150,000 to \$225,000 for the purchase of fire apparatus, from \$100,000 to \$150,000 for the purchase of ambulances, from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for the purchase of fire protection or communications equipment, from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for the repair of apparatus.

S5424-B: Requires employers of public protection personnel to provide testing of those personnel exposed to HIV and other serious transmissible diseases. Public protection personnel have been defined as including only any state, county or municipal police officer, peace officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, corrections officer, or sheriff who is acting under the scope of authority of his or her official position.

S757: Provides qualified immunity to fire districts and fire departments that donate fire equipment to another department (signed into law 2003).

S7355: Increases the maximum contribution to a service award program for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers.

A10040-A: Restricts the use of green lights to members of a volunteer ambulance service.

A11200: Amends Volunteer Firefighter Benefits Law and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Benefit Law to provide that an injured person may not release anyone from the obligation to pay such benefits and that any release is void.

S7354: Creates a task force in the Department of State on recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers.

S1066: Extends the town of Parish fire protection district into the village of Parish (drafted by Bradley M. Pinsky).

S6737: Extends the town of Marcellus fire protection district into the village of Marcellus (drafted by Bradley M. Pinsky)

*Some of these laws are specific to certain counties or fire departments. Those services interested in similar laws for themselves should consider obtaining the services of a firm with a strong government relations presence. The law firm of Scicchitano, Frateschi & Pinsky, PLLC can assist in this area.*