



Strengthening Local Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

EMS providers across the state are in crisis due to rising costs and high demand for increasingly complex services. Counties are being asked to fill growing gaps in EMS services in their communities, but they do not have the resources, flexibility, or statutory authority to develop county-wide or publicly funded EMS programs.

As a form of healthcare, EMS is subject to the same escalating costs as the rest of the healthcare industry. Municipalities that operate EMS Departments, or contract for services with those that do, feel the ongoing financial strain of these costs that are far outpacing inflation.

Additionally, local governments' efforts to collaborate on joint EMS services across municipal and county boundaries are hindered by current law, which prohibits counties and local municipalities from creating joint taxing districts for EMS services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

NYSAC has reviewed and fully supports the enactment of the following proposals and bills .

2022-2023 Executive Budget Proposal

In her 2022 State of the State address, Governor Kathy Hochul recognized the critical need for EMS and created a plan to modernize New York's EMS system. The SFY 23 Executive Budget proposal contained these reforms in Part F, of the Health and Mental Hygiene (HMH) Article VII bill.

The proposal would:

- amend Public Health Law to streamline the process for reporting and administering recommendations from regional emergency medical service councils and the state emergency medical services council,
- create an EMS quality assurance program and training program, and
- authorize a \$5 million appropriation to implement a county-wide emergency medical services overlay pilot project in selected New York counties.



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RECOMMENDATIONS , CONT.

Special Taxing Districts

S.5331 (Stec) / A.857-A (Jones) 2022

This legislation would allow municipalities to establish a joint EMS special taxing district with any county, city, town, or village. It would also require a study by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to investigate, report, and make recommendations on how to encourage recruitment and improve response times.

CHIPS Based EMS Funding

S.8189-B (Hinchey) / A.9164-A (Kelles) 2022

This legislation would create a funding mechanism similar to CHIPS and would allocate funding to municipalities that operate EMS Departments or contract with other municipal departments, volunteer departments, or non-profits for Emergency Medical Services within their jurisdiction.

State Health & Retirement Benefits for EMS Provider Staff

S.8432 (Mayer) / A.9509 (Otis) 2022

This legislation would allow EMS providers working with volunteer and non-profit providers to be eligible for the state health insurance program and the state pension system.

Property Tax Cap Exemption for EMS

This legislation would exempt any local funding for EMS districts from the property tax cap calculation. This legislation would help municipalities fund and support EMS districts without having to worry about property tax cap compliance.

