

NYSAC Training for County Officials (offered by Wayne Co)

#RescueEMS

A Legislative Package to Rescue EMS in NYS



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

515 Broadway Albany, 12207

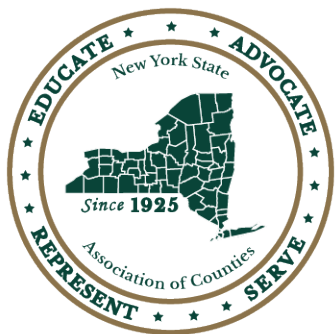
www.nysac.org

518-465-1473

Rescuing Emergency Medical Services

“EMS services across New York state are in crisis...We have got to create a solution that uplifts the very community that is keeping us alive as a community, so that’s the baseline that we’re saying.”

*Assemblymember Anna R. Kelles, PhD
January 30, 2024*



NYSAC's Legislative Package



NYSAC
— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Fact Sheet

Rescuing Local Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Problem

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 following proposals and legislation.

Special Taxing Districts & EMS Being Deemed an Essential Service

S.4020-C (Mayer) / A.3392-C (Otis)

This comprehensive legislative package allows special taxing districts to be created to fund EMS services. In addition, this legislation would recognize EMS as an essential service and provide reforms to the Emergency Medical Services Council.

Property Tax Exemption for EMS Services

S.5000 (May) / A.4077 (Lupardo)

This legislation would remove EMS services from the real property tax cap, which would allow local municipalities to expand and better support their local EMS services. This measure is needed in the short-term while other solutions are being discussed.

Authorization of Reimbursement for Treatment in Place and Transportation to Alternative Destinations

S.8486 (Hinchev) / A.9102 (Kelles)

This legislation authorizes Medicaid reimbursement to emergency medical services (EMS) agencies for providing Treatment in Place (TIP) to a patient at the point of response; as well as Transportation to an Alternate Provider (TAP), getting a patient to the most appropriate health care setting other than a hospital, such as a mental health clinic, rehabilitation facility or urgent care.

Income Tax and Property Tax Credits

S.6630 (Mannion) / A.6274 (Barrett)

This legislation allows volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to claim both state income and local property tax credits.

Income Tax Credit Increase

S.7286 (Martinez) / A.7524 (Thiele)

This legislation increases the volunteer firefighters' and ambulance workers' personal income tax credit from \$200 to \$800 for eligible individuals and from \$400 to \$1,600 for eligible married joint filers.

Targeted Medicaid Rate Increase for EMS Providers

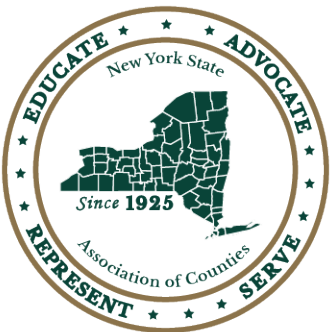
S.3223 (Sanders) / A.9237 (Hevesi)

This bill would create a methodology for ambulance reimbursement under Medicaid that more closely approximates the cost of providing the service. Ambulances are required by law to pick everyone up, including Medicaid patients. It is unfair to require these ambulance companies to accept Medicaid patients and then not fairly reimburse them for the costs of providing services to these patients.

Thruway Permits for EMS Vehicles

S.6645 (Comrie) / A.6136 (Eachus)

This legislation requires the thruway authority to issue emergency services permits to EMS vehicles as is already done for fire vehicles, which would exempt EMS from being required to pay tolls while transporting patients on the NYS thruway.



515 Broadway, Suite 402
Albany, NY 12207



www.nysac.org



518-465-1473

Advocating for Counties – A Case Study in Advocacy

#RescueEMS

Process for Developing the Rescue EMS Agenda

- 1.5 year-long process of listening to counties, EMS providers, hospitals, NYS DOH, and state legislators.
- July, 2023: NYSAC convenes stakeholders and develops a coalition of for-profit, non-profit, municipal EMS agencies, fire districts, firefighters association, fire chiefs, hospital networks and state legislators to brainstorm a legislative package.
- July 2023 – December 2023: NYSAC holds dozens of meetings to refine legislative language, and zero in on the final legislative package.
- January 2024: NYSAC launches a #RescueEMS campaign with coalition partners.



<https://www.nysac.org/news/posts/counties-legislators-unveil-legislative-package-to-rescue-ems/>

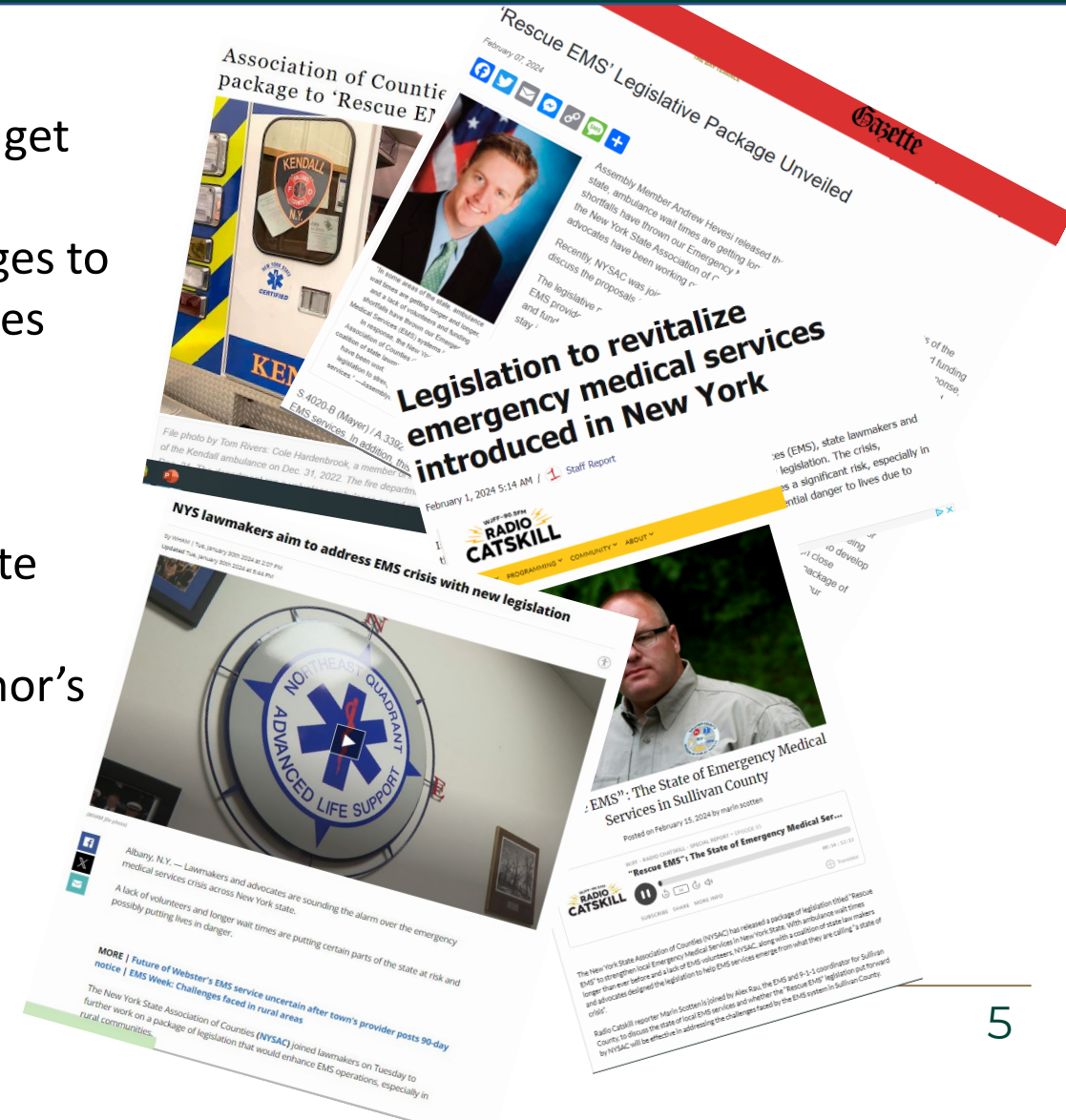


Advocating for Counties – A Case Study in Advocacy

#RescueEMS

Process for Developing the Rescue EMS Agenda

- January 2024: Governor Hochul releases SFY 25 Executive Budget and includes Part V, HMM as part of her proposal.
- February 2024: NYSAC advocates for technical edits and changes to the Governor's proposal to clarify intent and to protect counties from any possible unfunded mandate.
- February 2024: Governor Hochul advances 30-day budget amendments with changes supported by NYSAC.
- January – February 2024: NYSAC continues to engage with state legislators to build support for the #RescueEMS package.
- March 2024: NYSAC engages with state legislature and Governor's office to advance the entire #RescueEMS package.



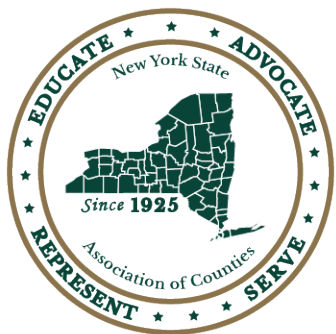
SFY 25 Executive Budget Proposal

- *Defines Emergency Medical Services as an Essential Service*
 - In the 1970's the definition of EMS in NYS was established. This update aims to align the definition of EMS with the current skillset and the services being delivered by EMS providers and agencies throughout the state.
 - Designates EMS and Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) as essential services throughout the state.
 - Mandates a standardized system for medical emergency response across all counties.
 - Requires counties to develop comprehensive emergency medical response plans and designate primary emergency response agencies.
 - Facilitates the establishment of municipal ambulance services.
 - Allows counties to create special taxing districts for financing and operating EMS through direct provision of service or through agreements established with existing provider networks. The Governor also exempts these special districts from the property tax cap for five years.



SFY 25 Executive Budget Proposal

- *Expands the Community Paramedicine Demonstration Program*
 - The Governor proposes reopening the application period, establishes new programs or modifies existing programs, and extends the Community Paramedicine Demonstration Program for seven more years to further evaluate the impact of the program.
- *EMS Practitioner Licensing and Credentialing*
 - The Governor introduces provisions for the licensure and specialized credentialing of EMS practitioners, including EMS technicians and advanced EMS technicians to elevate the professional status, increase public trust, and open opportunities for professional growth and advancement.
- *Establishes a Paramedic Urgent Care Program in Rural NYS*
 - The Executive Budget initiates a program to assess EMS roles in rural healthcare delivery.
 - Approves telemedicine as a part of paramedic urgent care, enhancing rural healthcare options.



NYS Assembly

- Rejects Part V, HMH (Executive's proposal)
- Does not mention any EMS reforms
- Maintains funding for the EMS demonstration programs at \$20 million.

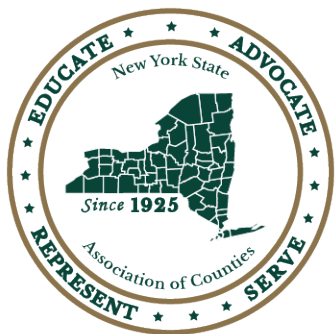
NYS Senate

- Rejects Part V, HMH (Executive's proposal)
- Includes S.4020-C (Mayer) deeming EMS as an essential service and grants counties the authority to create taxing districts to fund EMS services.
- Includes S.7286 (Martinez) to expand the volunteer firefighters' and ambulance workers' personal income tax credit.
- Maintains funding for the EMS demonstration programs at \$20 million.



The SFY 25 Enacted Budget

- ***What will be included in the Enacted Budget?***
 - We will likely see some reforms similar to S.4020-C and/or the ability for counties to support EMS services through taxing districts, or joint districts with municipal partners.
 - We will likely see a proposal to deem EMS as an essential service.
- ***What should NYSAC continue to advance?***
 - We are strongly advocating for a comprehensive solution, and stand with our coalition partners to advance the entire #RescueEMS legislative package.
- ***What will be dealt with outside of the budget-making process?***
 - Despite our best efforts, we can surmise that a majority of these policy priorities may be pushed outside of the budget and considered during the remaining period of the legislative session.



Rescuing Emergency Medical Services

How can you get involved and where can you learn more?

<https://www.nysac.org/issues/public-safety/rescue-ems/>

EMS Advocates Address County Officials at NYSAC Conference



Last week, over 800 county officials gathered in Albany County for the annual Legislative Conference.

During the conference's joint meeting of the Adirondack and Western Intercounty Associations, Alanna Badgley, a paramedic and Co-Founder, EMS Sustainability Alliance delivered an impassioned speech about the state of EMS in New York State and the need to enact reforms supported by NYSAC that make EMS an 'essential' service under the law.



NYSAC stands with advocates like Alanna and continues to advocate for package of legislation to strengthen local EMS in New York State.

4 St

All Posts

- Agriculture & Rural
- Budget and Financ
- Children with Speci
- Conferences
- Cost Saving Progra
- County Governmen
- Cybersecurity
- Demographic and E
- Economic Develop
- Employee Benefits
- Federal Advocacy
- Human Services
- Insurance
- Intergovernmental
- Job Board
- Mandates
- Marketing Opportu
- Medicaid
- Member Services
- Mental Health
- Native American AI
- Newly Elected
- NYSAC Blog
- Personnel and Labo
- Press Releases
- Public Health
- Public Safety
- Shared Services
- State Budget
- Taxation and Finan
- Toolkits
- Transportation & In
- Veterans' Affairs
- Women's Leadersh



Learn about the Rescue EMS package of reforms.

Learn More