

1 **2022 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution Encouraging the State Legislature and Governor to Authorize**
6 **Municipalities, including Counties, to Establish a Special District to Finance**
7 **and Operate General Ambulance Services**

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9 **WHEREAS**, many counties throughout the state are experiencing significant staffing
10 shortages in emergency medical services, jeopardizing the community emergency
11 response to those in need of assistance; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, a 2013 analysis by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)
14 found that, while the average scene-to destination time throughout New York State was
15 13.16 minutes, some parts of the Adirondacks have significantly longer wait times. The
16 average scene-to-destination time is 17.77 minutes in Clinton County, 18.32 minutes in
17 Franklin County, 21.59 minutes in Warren County, 25.55 minutes in Essex County, and
18 53.46 minutes in Hamilton County; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, this delayed response poses a significant threat to the lives of those who
21 live and recreate in these counties; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, states have long used special districts to enhance services for ever-
24 evolving communities; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, Emergency Services Districts (ESDs), in particular, can reduce response
27 times and increase the survival rate of patients who require prehospital care in areas
28 that have been historically underserved; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, according to the National Census Bureau, 150 ESDs were created to
31 provide local fire protection and ambulance services between 2012 to 2017 in the United
32 States.

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34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
35 Counties (NYSAC) encourages the Governor and State Legislature to enact legislation
36 S.5331 (Stec)/A.857 (Jones) that would authorize municipalities, including counties, to
37 establish a countywide special district to finance and operate general ambulance
38 services; and

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40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this legislation would also require the Division of
41 Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Commissioner to identify
42 challenges concerning volunteer emergency services or personnel; and

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44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by authorizing counties to establish special districts,
45 this legislation would increase the quality of emergency protection services in New York
State with economies of scale, particularly in rural portions of the State; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
2 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

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4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
5 the Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Legislature, and all others
6 deemed necessary and proper.