

1 **2022 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4 **Resolution Encouraging the State Legislature and Governor to Enact S.5331**  
5 **(Stec) / A.857 (Jones) and S.8189 (Hinchey) / A.9164 (Kelles)**

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

9 **WHEREAS**, Senator Dan Stec and Assemblymember Billy Jones have introduced  
10 legislation that would authorize municipalities, including counties, to establish a special  
11 district to finance and operate general ambulance services; and

12 **WHEREAS**, this legislation would also require the Division of Homeland Security and  
13 Emergency Services (DHSES) Commissioner to identify challenges concerning  
14 volunteer emergency services or personnel; and

15 **WHEREAS**, by authorizing counties to establish special districts, this legislation would  
16 increase the quality of emergency protection services in New York State with economies  
17 of scale, particularly in the Adirondack region and the rural regions; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in addition to Senator Stec and Assemblymember Jones' legislation,  
19 Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblymember Anna Kelles have introduced  
20 legislation that would establish a CHIPS-based funding formula for municipal EMS  
21 districts; and

22 **WHEREAS**, a 2013 analysis by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)  
23 found that, while the average scene-to-destination time throughout New York State was  
24 13.16 minutes, some parts of the Adirondacks have significantly longer wait times. The  
25 average scene-to-destination time is 17.77 minutes in Clinton County, 18.32 minutes in  
26 Franklin County, 21.59 minutes in Warren County, 25.55 minutes in Essex County, and  
27 53.46 minutes in Hamilton County; and

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

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

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

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

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
5 Counties (NYSAC) encourages the Governor and State Legislature to enact S.5331 (Stec)  
6 / A.857 (Jones) and S.8189 (Hinchey) / A.9164 (Kelles); and

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

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
10 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed  
11 necessary and proper.