

1 **2023 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Safety**
3 **Resolution #2**

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5 **Resolution in Support of S.4020-A (Mayer) / A.3392-A (Otis) to Grant**
6 **Counties and Municipalities the Ability to Establish Joint EMS Taxing**
7 **Districts**

8 **WHEREAS**, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is a vital resource, necessary to the
9 health and well-being of communities across New York; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, as a system that provides a wide range of prehospital medical care to sick
12 or injured people in emergency situations, the difference between a municipality that
13 provides for EMS and one that does not can often make the difference between life and
14 death; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, despite its vast importance, there is an ongoing EMS crisis in this state,
17 particularly in how it is funded, staffed, and operated; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, much of this stems from a fundamental misconception about EMS vis-a-
20 vis other critical services like police and fire. This is reflected in New York State law,
21 which fails to recognize the essential nature of EMS; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, as a result EMS providers are often undervalued and under-respected,
24 creating a disparity between the immense work EMS workers and volunteers provide
25 and the manner in which they are considered in public life; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, a second issue is the existing framework for the provision of EMS. In New
28 York, private, public, or not-for-profit providers have expanded across the state in a
29 scattered, patchwork approach leaving many New York residents uncertain whether an
30 EMS provider will be available in their locality, let alone in a time of need. Creating
31 greater flexibility for municipalities to facilitate EMS to meet unique local challenges
32 represents a critical next step in the provision of EMS; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, this legislation addresses the EMS crisis by:

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- 36 • Declaring general ambulance service as an “essential” service.
 - 37 • Requiring every county, city, town and village, acting individually or jointly, in
38 conjunction with a special district, to ensure that EMS, general ambulance
39 service, or a combination of such services are provided thereof.
 - 40 • Granting counties, or other municipalities the ability to establish independent or
41 joint taxing districts for the financing and operation of general ambulance
42 services.

43 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
44 Counties (NYSAC) hereby urges the State Legislature to pass an amended version of
45 S.4020-A / A.3392-A to remove the requirement that every municipality have an EMS
46 district; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NYSAC encourages Governor Kathy Hochul to sign this legislation at the earliest possible juncture; and

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

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