



Assemblyman Scott Bendett Supports New York's Volunteer Firefighters and EMS

Volunteer firefighters and EMS workers are invaluable members of our community and are responsible for saving lives as well as millions of taxpayer dollars across our state. Each day, volunteers give up time with their families and busy lives to answer the call of duty which is why I have fought to bring better support to our incredible heroes.

Scott
BENDETT
NYS ASSEMBLY

The More You Know!

- Around 94% of fire departments in New York are volunteer departments (USFA) consisting of nearly 81,000 volunteers.¹
- Nearly 6% of state fire departments are career departments housing approximately 7,000 full-time firefighters.²
- There are about 33,000 volunteer EMS workers operating out of more than 1,100 ambulance services.³
- According to a FASNY report, fully paid career departments in place of volunteers would cost New York taxpayers an additional \$4.7 billion annually.

(1) https://afdsny.org/news_manager.php?page=26908&utm

(2) <https://www.osc.ny.gov/press/releases/2024/03/dinapoli-more-state-involvement-needed-address-local-emergency-medical-services-challenges>

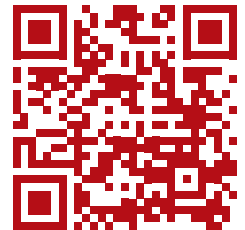
(3) <https://www.nfpa.org/news-blogs-and-articles/podcasts/the-volunteer-crisis>

Giving Back

In efforts to make our incredible volunteers feel supported and attract more volunteer sign ups, I have made it a priority to sponsor and co-sponsor legislation in Albany:

- Establish a retirement service credit for volunteer fire or emergency service workers (A.8082)
- Enact the "omnibus emergency services volunteer incentive act" to provide specific benefits (A.6414)
- Increase the volunteer tax credit from \$200 to \$800 for individuals, and up to \$1,600 for joint filers (A.6790-A)
- Create a service learning program for students who serve as active volunteers (A.7908)
- Give volunteer firefighters and members of a volunteer ambulance service free use of state parks and campsites (A.4401)

Scan Here to View a Quick Video Message from Scott!



For questions or concerns regarding this or any other state/local matters, please contact my District Office:
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