



**FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM 2012**

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2012 ISSUES OF UNITED CONCERN

Fallen Firefighter Memorial Recognition Bill – To amend appropriate section of law to provide that in the case of a line of duty death where a benefit is paid to a covered firefighter, that the name of that firefighter shall be inscribed upon the NYS Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the Capitol Mall in Albany.

Bail out Rope Reform – To support legislation that clarifies the requirements of existing law and regulations regarding safety rules for firefighter above ground evacuation equipment and procedures.

Consolidation Amendments – To seek amendments to the New York Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act.

Elimination of Exemption from Seat Belt Law – To seek legislation to require operators and passengers of certain authorized fire and EMS emergency vehicles to be restrained by safety belts by eliminating the existing exemption for such vehicles engaged in emergency response.

Felony/Sex Offenders – To amend applicable statutes to allow for a full criminal background check on applicants or members of a volunteer fire department or EMS unit, and to provide for refusal of membership or expulsion of persons convicted of certain sex or felony offenses. Currently, the only offenses that are a bar to service as a volunteer firefighter are arson convictions.

Affordable Health Insurance for Volunteers – To enact legislation that requires health insurers to cover volunteers when a municipality allows volunteers, at their own expense, to participate in its plan and to provide for affordable health insurance for volunteers by permitting them to participate in the Healthy New York program.

Novelty Lighters – To amend the General Business Law to prohibit the retail sale and distribution of novelty lighters.

FASNY ISSUES –2012

Healthcare – Establish a healthcare committee to establish a regional group plan as an alternative to the health insurance legislation or amendments in conjunction with recommendations from the Insurance Department.

Utility Rate Reduction – To enact legislation to enable volunteer fire and ambulance companies to receive lower utility rates.

Job Protection – To amend the labor law to prohibit an employer from terminating an employee who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer emergency medical services when that employee misses or is late to work because of a federal or state declared emergency.

VFBL/VAWBL Reform – To support legislation to increase weekly VFBL/VAWBL benefit levels and to create parities with the Worker Compensation Reform Act of 2007, including appropriate cost of living adjustments to benefit recipients.

Expanded Cancer Impairment – To enact legislation that would amend the volunteer firefighters' benefit law to establish a presumption as to the cause of certain disabilities including brain cancer.

Extend VFBL Benefits for Fitness Programs – Amend VFBL to expand benefits to include injuries sustained while participating in an approved physical fitness program.

Cost Recovery for Fire Department Ambulance Service – To amend the General Municipal Law to authorize fire departments and companies that provide emergency medical services to establish fees and charge for the services.

Illegal Occupancy in Multi-Family Dwelling – To enact legislation that would increase the civil and criminal penalties to discourage landlords from violating code requirements regulating occupancy of multi-family dwellings.

911 Surcharge Distribution and Recurring Budget – To assure that an adequate and representative funding exist for 911 coordination purposes derived from cellular and landline surcharges. To monitor other budget items of concern to ensure they are maintained at the levels required to meet the needs of the fire service.

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The Firemen's Association of the State of New York's grassroots legislative program is a time-honored process. FASNY's members have gathered for more than 75 years, region by region, to determine their proactive legislative program. The legislative proposals you see in summary form came from every area of the State and have been approved by voice vote of FASNY's membership to be brought to the Legislature for consideration. As the bills are introduced they are entered on FASNY's legislative agenda (scorecard), which is circulated weekly, so that the membership may mark their progress and write to the sponsors in support. Sponsors of the bills are recognized in all communications from FASNY to its members.