

Proposed Peace Officer Legislation Will Not Affect Fire Police Training Requirements

The NYS Legislature is considering new legislation (S.6102-A/A.7957-A) that would increase training requirements for peace officers. Since members of volunteer fire police squads are peace officers when performing fire police duties, this legislation had to be analyzed closely.

Although the proposed legislation increases training requirements for peace officers, it does not change an exemption currently enjoyed by volunteer fire police under General Municipal Law §209-c. Under that section of law, members of volunteer fire police squads can satisfy training requirements by simply completing the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control training course.

FASNY informed the bill sponsor of this and indicated that the proposed legislation should not be used to change the current fire police training requirements - and the sponsor agreed. FASNY then discussed this issue with the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) which is the state agency that oversees peace officer training. DCJS stated that the proposed legislation will not change the current training requirements for volunteer fire police.

FASNY will continue to monitor this proposed legislation and will provide updates if there are any changes. FASNY thanks the volunteer fire police community for their attention to this important issue.