



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Res 0785-2007, **Version:** \*

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### Res. No. 785

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to amend the Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Benefit Law to include volunteer ambulance workers who render aid at the request of the City.

By Council Members Weprin, Avella, Fidler, Gentile, Gonzalez, James, Mealy, Sears, Vann, Stewart, Gerson, Vacca and Felder

Whereas, In recognition of their noble and heroic service to their communities and the State, the New York State Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Benefit Law of 1988 (VAWBL) was adopted to provide benefits similar to workers' compensation to members of volunteer ambulance companies and their families in the event of death or injury sustained in the line of duty; and

Whereas, In order to be eligible to receive benefits under this law, volunteer ambulance workers must perform services pursuant to a contract with the City; and

Whereas, There are currently independent volunteer ambulance companies in the City that are required, pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City, a non-profit corporation created pursuant to State law that is responsible for coordinating medical services in New York City, to render aid when called upon by the Fire Department of New York and/or the New York City Office of Emergency Management; and

Whereas, Since such volunteer ambulance workers lack a contract with the City, they are not considered to be eligible for benefits pursuant to the VAWBL for death or injury sustained as a result of rendering requested aid; and

Whereas, Under a law similar to the VAWBL, the New York State Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit Law of 1957 (VFBL), volunteer members of the New York City Fire Department emergency rescue and first aid

squads receive benefits similar to workers' compensation; and

Whereas, There should be parity between the benefits offered to volunteer members of the New York City Fire Department emergency rescue and first aid squads who are killed or injured in the line of duty and independent volunteer ambulance workers who render aid at the City's request who are killed or injured in the line of duty; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to amend the Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Benefit Law to include volunteer ambulance workers who render aid at the request of the City.

EC  
LS#2039  
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