

Inter-County Association of Western New York

Representing the Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-19-IC

A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL TO AMEND PARAGRAPH C OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW 209-B, SUBDIVISION 4, TO ALLOW ALS INTERCEPT AGENCIES TO BILL DIRECTLY

Motioned by: Brooke Harris (*Allegany*)

Seconded by: Thomas Sweet (*Chemung*)

WHEREAS, volunteer fire departments play a vital role in public safety, and

WHEREAS, the majority volunteer fire departments are supported through a combination of municipal funding and community donations, and they do not bill patients or insurers for services provided, and

WHEREAS, many non-billing agencies, are not able to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) services to their communities,

WHEREAS, those agencies are required to request ALS services when needed for patient care, as may ALS agencies when ALS volunteers are unavailable, and

WHEREAS, Paragraph C of Section 209-B, Subdivision 4, of the General Municipal Law, as amended effective July 8, 2022, requires ALS providers to bill transporting agencies for services provided, and prohibits the direct billing of patients or insurers, and

WHEREAS, this structure requires non-billing agencies to either begin billing patient/insurers in order to recover those costs, or to seek additional funding from their municipalities and through donations, and

WHEREAS, existing funding through municipal and community support is not sufficient to cover the increased costs associated with ALS intercepts, and

WHEREAS, non-billing fire departments have neither the funding nor the personnel necessary to implement a billing apparatus, and

WHEREAS, several fire departments do not have access to funding that would support other losses incurred though increased operating expenses, insufficient reimbursements, or non-payments, and

WHEREAS, the undue financial burden placed upon our non-billing fire departments will result in the continued depletion of effective EMS operations in many Counties, which are necessary, life-saving services that the Board of Legislators is desirous that anyone living, working, and visiting any of our communities receives when requested, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED:

1. Members of Inter-County Association of Western New York urge Governor Kathy Hochul to amend Paragraph C of Section 209-B, Subdivision 4 of the General Municipal Law to allow ALS intercept agencies to bill directly. Be it further resolved,

2. That the Secretary of Inter-County Association of Western New York shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Minority Leader Rob Ortt, Assembly Majority Leader Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay, Senator George M. Borrello, Assemblyman Joseph Giglio, Assemblyman Hawley and Inter-County Association of Western New York.

This is to Certify that I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Inter-County Association of Western New York, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office and which was duly adopted by the Association at a session held on the 21st day of October 2022 and that the same is a true copy of said original and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the official seal of the Inter-County Association of Western New York dated October 21, 2022.



Lisa K. Casey, Secretary
Inter-County Association of Western New York

Sponsored by: Allegany County, Moved by: Brooke Harris (*Allegany*) and Seconded by: Thomas Sweet (Chemung).



RESOLUTION NO. 2022-19-IC