



LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 1998

CHAPTER:145

NJSA: 18A:71-78.1

"Volunteer firemen, etc. -- tuition credit"

BILL NO: A1517 (Substituted for S698 -- 1st Reprint)

SPONSOR(S): Malone and Cottrell

DATE INTRODUCED: Pre-filed

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY: Education

SENATE: Community and Urban Affairs

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE:

ASSEMBLY: March 16, 1998; Re-enacted December 17, 1998

SENATE: September 28, 1998; Re-enacted December 17, 1998

DATE OF APPROVAL: December 23, 1998

THE FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL: 1st Reprint

(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

A1517

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes* (Begins on page 3 of original bill)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: *Yes*

SENATE: *Yes*

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: *No*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *No*

S698

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes* (Begins on page 3 of original bill)
(Bill and Sponsors Statement identical to A1517)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: *No*

SENATE: *Yes*

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: *No*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *No*

VETO MESSAGE: *Yes*

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: *Yes*

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: *No*

HEARINGS: *No*

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: *No*

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1517

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1998 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOSEPH R. MALONE, III

District 30 (Burlington, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman MELVIN COTTRELL

District 30 (Burlington, Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Blee, Felice, Senators Singer, Palaia, Bark, Bucco, Allen,

Assemblymen Conaway, Connors, Corodemus, Gusciora, Holzapfel,

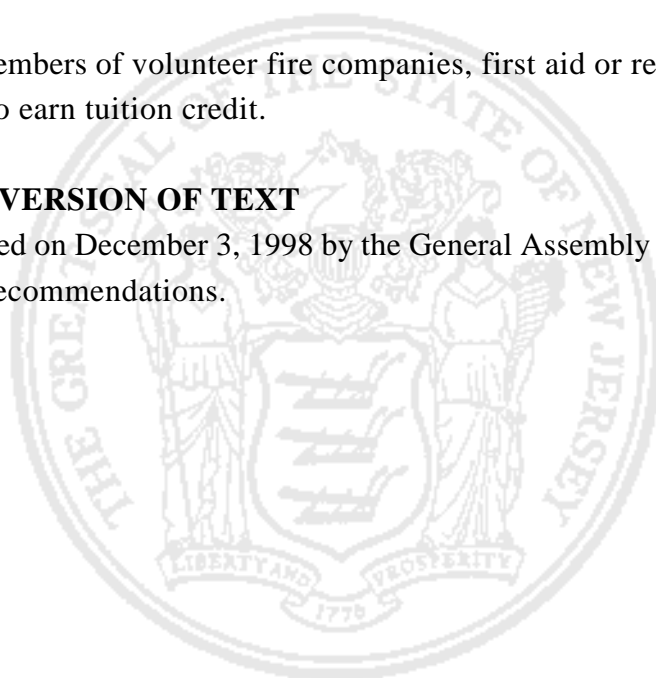
Assemblywomen Murphy and Watson Coleman

SYNOPSIS

Allows members of volunteer fire companies, first aid or rescue squads or association to earn tuition credit.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended on December 3, 1998 by the General Assembly pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/18/1998)

1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary education and supplementing Title
2 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. A person who is an active member of a volunteer fire company
8 or volunteer first aid or rescue squad or association in good standing
9 and the dependent children and spouse of a volunteer shall be allowed
10 to enroll in a postsecondary program on a tuition-free basis in a county
11 college, county vocational school or county technical institute and be
12 eligible to receive tuition credit in an amount not to exceed a
13 maximum of ¹~~[\$4,000]~~ \$2,400¹ for the member, children and spouse;
14 provided that available classroom space permits and that tuition paying
15 students constitute the minimum number required for the course.
16 Nothing herein shall preclude a county college, county vocational
17 school or county technical institute from requiring registration and lab
18 fees for individuals attending courses pursuant to this act.

19
20 2. In order to be eligible to receive tuition credit at a county
21 college, county vocational school or county technical institute, a
22 person shall agree to serve as a member of a volunteer fire company
23 or volunteer first aid or rescue squad or association for a minimum of
24 four years and sign an agreement with the municipality in which the
25 squad or association is located pledging four years of service in
26 exchange for the tuition credit. Following each year of volunteer
27 service performed, the volunteer or the spouse or dependent child shall
28 be entitled to receive tuition credit of up to ¹~~[\$1,000]~~ \$600¹, not to
29 exceed a maximum of ¹~~[\$4,000]~~ \$2,400¹ for the member, children
30 and spouse over a four-year service period.

31
32 3. Upon being accepted and enrolled in a county college, county
33 vocational school or county technical institute, the volunteer,
34 dependent child or spouse shall provide verification to the institution
35 that the volunteer has performed the service required for the tuition
36 credit. Upon completion of each semester, the volunteer shall submit
37 a transcript to the municipality to be maintained in a permanent record.
38 The volunteer or the dependent child or spouse shall maintain a "C"
39 grade average in order to continue eligibility for the tuition credit
40 program.

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ **Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations December 3, 1998.**

1 4. A municipality which chooses to participate in the tuition credit
2 program shall issue a letter of eligibility to the volunteer, to be
3 presented to the appropriate institution, stating that the individual is
4 a member in good standing of a volunteer fire company, volunteer first
5 aid or rescue squad or association.

6

7 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1517

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1998 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOSEPH R. MALONE, III
District 30 (Burlington, Monmouth and Ocean)
Assemblyman MELVIN COTTRELL
District 30 (Burlington, Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

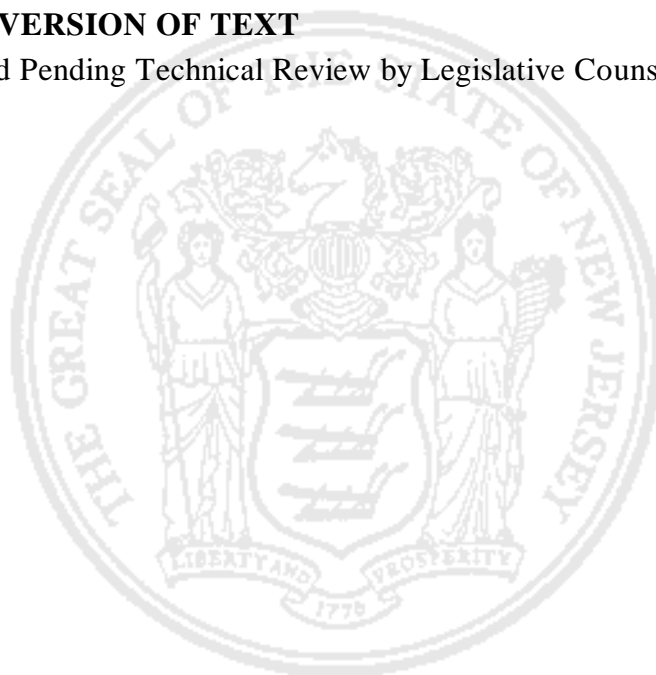
Assemblyman Blee

SYNOPSIS

Allows members of volunteer fire companies, first aid or rescue squads or association to earn tuition credit.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/1998)

1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary education and supplementing Title
2 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. A person who is an active member of a volunteer fire company
8 or volunteer first aid or rescue squad or association in good standing
9 and the dependent children and spouse of a volunteer shall be allowed
10 to enroll in a postsecondary program on a tuition-free basis in a county
11 college, county vocational school or county technical institute and be
12 eligible to receive tuition credit in an amount not to exceed a
13 maximum of \$4,000 for the member, children and spouse; provided
14 that available classroom space permits and that tuition paying students
15 constitute the minimum number required for the course. Nothing
16 herein shall preclude a county college, county vocational school or
17 county technical institute from requiring registration and lab fees for
18 individuals attending courses pursuant to this act.

19

20 2. In order to be eligible to receive tuition credit at a county
21 college, county vocational school or county technical institute, a
22 person shall agree to serve as a member of a volunteer fire company
23 or volunteer first aid or rescue squad or association for a minimum of
24 four years and sign an agreement with the municipality in which the
25 squad or association is located pledging four years of service in
26 exchange for the tuition credit. Following each year of volunteer
27 service performed, the volunteer or the spouse or dependent child shall
28 be entitled to receive tuition credit of up to \$1,000, not to exceed a
29 maximum of \$4,000 for the member, children and spouse over a four-
30 year service period.

31

32 3. Upon being accepted and enrolled in a county college, county
33 vocational school or county technical institute, the volunteer,
34 dependent child or spouse shall provide verification to the institution
35 that the volunteer has performed the service required for the tuition
36 credit. Upon completion of each semester, the volunteer shall submit
37 a transcript to the municipality to be maintained in a permanent record.
38 The volunteer or the dependent child or spouse shall maintain a "C"
39 grade average in order to continue eligibility for the tuition credit
40 program.

41

42 4. A municipality which chooses to participate in the tuition credit
43 program shall issue a letter of eligibility to the volunteer, to be
44 presented to the appropriate institution, stating that the individual is
45 a member in good standing of a volunteer fire company, volunteer first
46 aid or rescue squad or association.

1 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6 This bill requires county colleges, county vocational schools and
7 county technical institutes to allow active members in good standing
8 of a volunteer fire company, volunteer first aid or rescue squad or
9 association, to enroll in a postsecondary program tuition-free on a
10 space available basis and receive up to a maximum tuition credit of
11 \$4,000. Volunteers are required to register with the municipality in
12 which the fire company, squad or association is located and sign an
13 agreement pledging four years of volunteer service in exchange for the
14 tuition credits. In addition, the volunteer is required to maintain a
15 "C" grade in tuition credit classes and submit a copy of the transcript
16 each semester to the municipality. Following each year of volunteer
17 service performed, the individual or the dependent children or spouse
18 of the volunteer may receive tuition credit of \$1,000 up to a maximum
19 of \$4,000 collectively. In order to be eligible to receive the tuition
20 credit, the volunteer has to verify to the institution that the service was
21 performed by submitting a letter of eligibility provided by the
22 participating municipality. The bill imposes a cap on the tuition credit
23 earned of \$4,000 over four years for the member, children and spouse
24 collectively. No cost is associated with the bill because the volunteers
25 and their dependents or spouses attend on a space available basis after
26 the minimum number of tuition paying students required for the course
27 have registered.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1517

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 9, 1998

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 1517.

This bill requires county colleges, county vocational schools and county technical institutes to allow active members in good standing of a volunteer fire company, volunteer first aid or rescue squad or association, to enroll in a postsecondary program tuition-free on a space available basis and receive up to a maximum tuition credit of \$4,000. Volunteers are required to register with the municipality in which the fire company, squad or association is located and sign an agreement pledging four years of volunteer service in exchange for the tuition credits. In addition, the volunteer is required to maintain a "C" grade in tuition credit classes and submit a copy of the transcript each semester to the municipality. Following each year of volunteer service performed, the individual or the dependent children or spouse of the volunteer may receive tuition credit of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$4,000 collectively. In order to be eligible to receive the tuition credit, the volunteer has to verify to the institution that the service was performed by submitting a letter of eligibility provided by the participating municipality. The bill imposes a cap on the tuition credit earned of \$4,000 over four years for the member, children and spouse collectively. No cost is associated with the bill because the volunteers and their dependents or spouses attend on a space available basis after the minimum number of tuition paying students required for the course have registered.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1998 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

SENATE COMMUNITY AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1517

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE, 15, 1998

The Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1517.

This bill would require county colleges, county vocational schools and county technical institutes to allow active members in good standing of a volunteer fire company, volunteer first aid or rescue squad or association, to enroll in a postsecondary program tuition-free on a space available basis and receive up to a maximum tuition credit of \$4,000 for the member, and the member's children and spouse. Volunteers would be required to register with the municipality in which the fire company, squad or association is located and sign an agreement pledging four years of volunteer service in exchange for the tuition credits. In addition, the volunteer, dependent child or spouse would be required to maintain a "C" grade in tuition credit classes and submit a copy of the transcript each semester to the municipality. Following each year of volunteer service performed, the individual or the dependent children or spouse of the volunteer may receive tuition credit of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$4,000. In order to receive the tuition credit the volunteer would be required to submit a letter of eligibility from the municipality verifying the municipality's determination to participate in the tuition credit program and that the individual is a member in good standing. The bill imposes a cap on the tuition credit earned of up to a maximum of \$4,000 over four years. No cost is associated with the bill because the volunteers and their dependents or spouses attend on a space available basis after the minimum number of tuition paying students required for the course have registered and the school would be permitted to charge the student registration and lab fees.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 698 as amended and reported by this committee on June 15, 1998.

SENATE, No. 698

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 1998

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Burlington, Monmouth and Ocean)

Senator JOSEPH A. PALAIA

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Bark

SYNOPSIS

Allows members of volunteer fire companies, first aid or rescue squads or associations to earn tuition credit.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/1998)

1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary education and supplementing Title
2 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. A person who is an active member of a volunteer fire company
8 or volunteer first aid or rescue squad or association in good standing
9 and the dependent children and spouse of a volunteer shall be allowed
10 to enroll in a postsecondary program on a tuition-free basis in a county
11 college, county vocational school or county technical institute and be
12 eligible to receive tuition credit in an amount not to exceed \$4,000;
13 provided that available classroom space permits and that tuition paying
14 students constitute the minimum number required for the course.
15 Nothing herein shall preclude a county college, county vocational
16 school or county technical institute from requiring registration and lab
17 fees for individuals attending courses pursuant to this act.

18

19 2. In order to be eligible to receive tuition credit at a county
20 college, county vocational school or county technical institute, a
21 person shall agree to serve as a member of a volunteer fire company
22 or volunteer first aid or rescue squad or association for a minimum of
23 four years and sign an agreement with the municipality in which the
24 squad or association is located pledging four years of service in
25 exchange for the tuition credit. Following each year of volunteer
26 service performed, the volunteer or the spouse or dependent child shall
27 be entitled to receive tuition credit of up to \$1,000, not to exceed
28 \$4,000 over a four year service period.

29

30 3. Upon being accepted and enrolled in a county college, county
31 vocational school or county technical institute, the volunteer,
32 dependent child or spouse shall provide verification to the institution
33 that the volunteer has performed the service required for the tuition
34 credit. Upon completion of each semester, the volunteer shall submit
35 a transcript to the municipality to be maintained in a permanent record.
36 The volunteer or the dependent child or spouse shall maintain a "C"
37 grade average in order to continue eligibility for the tuition credit
38 program.

39

40 4. A municipality which chooses to participate in the tuition credit
41 program shall issue a letter of eligibility to the volunteer, to be
42 presented to the appropriate institution, stating that the individual is
43 a member in good standing of a volunteer fire company, volunteer first
44 aid or rescue squad or association.

45

46 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

1 STATEMENT

2

3 This bill requires county colleges, county vocational schools and
4 county technical institutes to allow active members in good standing
5 of a volunteer fire company, volunteer first aid or rescue squad or
6 association, to enroll in a postsecondary program tuition-free on a
7 space available basis and receive up to a maximum tuition credit of
8 \$4,000. Volunteers are required to register with the municipality in
9 which the fire company, squad or association is located and sign an
10 agreement pledging four years of volunteer service in exchange for the
11 tuition credits. In addition, the volunteer is required to maintain a "C"
12 grade in tuition credit classes and submit a copy of the transcript each
13 semester to the municipality. Following each year of volunteer service
14 performed, the individual or the dependent children or spouse of the
15 volunteer may receive tuition credit of \$1,000 up to a maximum of
16 \$4,000. In order to be eligible to receive the tuition credit, the
17 volunteer has to verify to the institution that the service was
18 performed by submitting a letter of eligibility provided by the
19 participating municipality. The bill imposes a cap on the tuition credit
20 earned of up to a maximum of \$4,000 over four years. No cost is
21 associated with the bill because the volunteers and their dependents or
22 spouses attend on a space available basis after the minimum number of
23 tuition paying students required for the course have registered.

SENATE COMMUNITY AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 698

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 15, 1998

The Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments, Senate Bill No. 698.

This bill, as amended by the committee, would require county colleges, county vocational schools and county technical institutes to allow active members in good standing of a volunteer fire company, volunteer first aid or rescue squad or association, to enroll in a postsecondary program tuition-free on a space available basis and receive up to a maximum tuition credit of \$4,000 for the member, and the member's children and spouse. Volunteers would be required to register with the municipality in which the fire company, squad or association is located and sign an agreement pledging four years of volunteer service in exchange for the tuition credits. In addition, the volunteer, dependent child or spouse would be required to maintain a "C" grade in tuition credit classes and submit a copy of the transcript each semester to the municipality. Following each year of volunteer service performed, the individual or the dependent children or spouse of the volunteer may receive tuition credit of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$4,000. In order to receive the tuition credit the volunteer would be required to submit a letter of eligibility from the municipality verifying the municipality's determination to participate in the tuition credit program and that the individual is a member in good standing. The bill imposes a cap on the tuition credit earned of up to a maximum of \$4,000 over four years. No cost is associated with the bill because the volunteers and their dependents or spouses attend on a space available basis after the minimum number of tuition paying students required for the course have registered and the school would be permitted to charge the student registration and lab fees.

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the maximum amount of tuition credit, \$4,000 over a four-year period, applies to the member, children and spouse collectively. With this amendment the bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1517, which was also favorably reported by this committee on June 15, 1998.

November 16, 1998

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1517

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 1, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution. I am returning Assembly Bill No. 1517 with my recommendations for reconsideration.

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

This bill requires county colleges, county vocational schools and county technical institutes to allow active members in good standing of a volunteer fire company, volunteer first aid or rescue squad, or association to enroll, tuition-free, in these institutions. Such credits need only be given on a space available basis and upon the condition that tuition paying students constitute the minimum number required for the course. The bill also provides that the spouses and the dependent children of such volunteers are entitled to the same benefit

Following each year of volunteer service performed, the individual, the spouse, or the dependent children of the volunteer may receive tuition credit of up to \$1,000, not to exceed a maximum of \$4,000 collectively over a four year service period. The bill does not prohibit county colleges, county vocational schools or county technical institutes from requiring registration and tab fees for individuals receiving tuition credits.

B. RECOMMENDED ACTION

I commend the sponsors of this legislation for recognizing the important contribution members of volunteer fire companies and volunteer first aid and rescue squads make to their communities and throughout the State. In the face of an ever increasing shortage of such volunteers, the bill will assist in retaining as well as recruiting additional volunteers.

While I am mindful of the need to support these volunteers and appreciate their invaluable contribution to the State of New Jersey, I believe that the amount of tuition credits that can be earned under the bill would place too great a burden on post-secondary institutions. Currently, tuition credits are offered to a variety of groups, including New Jersey National Guard members, senior citizens and certain unemployed workers. have been advised that New Jersey's post-

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

secondary institutions are already hard pressed to meet the needs of these groups. Indeed, space is often not available for such students and to the detriment of these individuals, attendance must be delayed until drop-add periods are concluded.

To better balance the needs of the affected educational Institutions and the volunteers, I recommend that the bill be amended to provide a tuition credit of \$600 per year, and a total of \$2,400 over four years of service. to be applied collectively to the volunteers. their spouses and dependent children.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 1517 and recommend that it be amended as follows:

<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 13:</u>	Delete "\$4,000" and insert "\$2400"
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 28:</u>	Delete "\$1,000" and Insert "\$600"
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 29:</u>	Delete "\$4,000" and insert "\$2,400"

Respectfully,
/s/ Christine Todd Whitman
GOVERNOR

[seal]
Attest:
/s/ John J. Farmer, Jr.
Chief Counsel to the Governor

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Wendi Patella
609-777-2600

RELEASE: November 16, 1998

**Governor Whitman Amends Assembly Bill Granting Tuition Credit
to Volunteer Fire Fighters and Rescue Squads Members**

Gov. Christie Whitman today conditionally vetoed a bill requiring county colleges and vocational-technical schools to provide tuition credits for all volunteer fire fighters and emergency personnel and their families.

A-1517, sponsored by Assembly Members Joseph Malone (R-Burlington/ Monmouth/Ocean) and Melvin Cottrell (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Senators Robert W. Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Joseph Palaia (R-Monmouth), requires county colleges, vocational schools and technical institutes to allow active members, their spouses, and dependent children to enroll tuition free on a space-available basis.

In amending the law, Gov. Whitman reduced the tuition credit from \$1,000 per year to \$600 per year. She said the proposed credit amount would have placed too great a burden on the schools.

"I commend the sponsors of this legislation for recognizing the important contribution members of volunteer fire companies and volunteer first aid and rescue squads make to their communities and throughout the State," the Governor wrote in her veto message. "In the face of an ever increasing shortage of such volunteers, the bill will assist in retaining as well as recruiting additional volunteers."