

Local Law Filing

(Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of State.)

Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underlining to indicate new matter.

County City Town Village
(Select one.)

of Erie

Local Law No. 1 of the year 20 23

A local law Providing for 10% property tax exemptions for Volunteer Firefighters and
(Insert Title)
Ambulance workers in Erie County.

Be it enacted by the Erie County Legislature of the
(Name of Legislative Body)

County City Town Village
(Select one.)

of Erie

as follows:

SECTION 1: Legislative Intent

Volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers are vital to public safety in communities across Erie County. To encourage and reward the selfless acts of volunteerism displayed by our firefighters and ambulance workers, New York State now allows local municipalities to opt into a real property tax exemption for certain volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers. This local law, pursuant to §466-a of the NYS Real Property Tax Law (RPTL), is intended to provide any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance company across Erie County a real property tax exemption of up to 10% of the assessed value of qualifying residential real property owned by a volunteer firefighter or ambulance worker in the district in which they volunteer. It is further the intent of this body to extend this benefit to un-remarried spouses of volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers in instances where the volunteer dies after accruing twenty years of service or for those who die in the line-of-duty.

(If additional space is needed, attach pages the same size as this sheet, and number each.)

SECTION 2: Provision of a Real Property Tax Exemption to Enrolled Members of Incorporated Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Companies

The Erie County Legislature hereby provides a real property tax exemption of 10% of the assessed value of real property for taxes levied by Erie County for individuals that meet the following qualifications:

- The individual is an enrolled and certified member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or volunteer ambulance service that provides services within the County of Erie and has a minimum of two years of service; and
- That the property receiving the benefit is located within the jurisdiction served by the incorporated fire department or volunteer ambulance service to which the volunteer belongs; and
- The individual resides in the County of Erie and the property receiving the benefit is the primary residence of the individual and is used exclusively for residential purpose, and any portion of the property not used for residential purposes shall be subject to taxation.

SECTION 3: Grant of Lifetime Real Property Tax Exemption for Certain Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers who have Accrued Twenty Years of Volunteer Service

The Erie County Legislature hereby provides a lifetime real property tax exemption of 10% of the assessed value of real property for any individuals that have been certified by the authority having jurisdiction over an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service as having accrued twenty or more years of active service, so long as their primary residence remains within the Erie County jurisdiction in which they served.

SECTION 4. Grant of Lifetime Real Property Tax Exemption for Un-remarried Spouses of Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Whose Spouses Qualify under Section 3 of this Law or Whose Spouses Die in the Line-of-Duty

The Erie County Legislature hereby provides a real property tax exemption for life to the spouse of any volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who dies after accruing twenty years of service or who dies in the line-of-duty pursuant to the policies contained in New York State RPTL §466-a (4). Provided, however, that the volunteer was already eligible for, and receiving, this benefit under either Section 2 or Section 3 as applicable.

SECTION 5. Certification of Eligibility

For the purposes of the requirements set forth by §466-a of NYS RPTL and this Local Law, no benefits can be provided without a certification of eligibility filed with the local assessor's office, in who's jurisdiction the applicant's property is located.

A universal county certificate of eligibility shall be published by the Erie County Executive on the County website for submission to applicant's assessor's office within 30 days of the effective date of this local law.

As part of any certificate of eligibility in application for benefits described by this law, the applicant must provide a Letter of Certification, which includes the exact date enrolled and current active status on their volunteer fire department or ambulance service's letterhead along with a proof of residency.

SECTION 6. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect in the next full tax year following filing with the Secretary of State.

Any volunteer having accrued the minimum years of service described in this local law as of the effective date of this law shall be eligible to apply for the benefits described herein provided they meet all other eligibility requirements contained in this law.

SECTION 7. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this Local Law or the application thereof, to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance, shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional such order of judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Sponsors: Legislators Mills, Greene, Todaro, Malczewski, Baskin, Meyers, Johnson, Kooshoian, Bargnesi, Vinal and Gilmour

(Complete the certification in the paragraph that applies to the filing of this local law and strike out that which is not applicable.)

1. (Final adoption by local legislative body only.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. _____ of 20____ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of _____ was duly passed by the _____ on _____ 20____, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

(Name of Legislative Body)

2. (Passage by local legislative body with approval, no disapproval or repassage after disapproval by the Elective Chief Executive Officer*.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. _____ of 20__23__ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of Erie Erie County Legislature was duly passed by the _____ on May 10 2023, and was (approved)(~~not approved~~) (repassed after disapproval) by the Erie County Executive and was deemed duly adopted on May 10 2023, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

(Name of Legislative Body)

(Elective Chief Executive Officer*)

3. (Final adoption by referendum.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. _____ of 20____ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of _____ was duly passed by the _____ on _____ 20____, and was (approved)(not approved) (repassed after disapproval) by the _____ on _____ 20____.

(Name of Legislative Body)

(Elective Chief Executive Officer*)

Such local law was submitted to the people by reason of a (mandatory)(permissive) referendum, and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the (general)(special)(annual) election held on _____ 20____, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

4. (Subject to permissive referendum and final adoption because no valid petition was filed requesting referendum.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. _____ of 20____ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of _____ was duly passed by the _____ on _____ 20____, and was (approved)(not approved) (repassed after disapproval) by the _____ on _____ 20____. Such local law was subject to permissive referendum and no valid petition requesting such referendum was filed as of _____ 20____, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

(Name of Legislative Body)

(Elective Chief Executive Officer*)

* Elective Chief Executive Officer means or includes the chief executive officer of a county elected on a county-wide basis or, if there be none, the chairperson of the county legislative body, the mayor of a city or village, or the supervisor of a town where such officer is vested with the power to approve or veto local laws or ordinances.

5. (City local law concerning Charter revision proposed by petition.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. _____ of 20 ____ of the City of _____ having been submitted to referendum pursuant to the provisions of section (36)(37) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of such city voting thereon at the (special)(general) election held on _____ 20 _____, became operative.

6. (County local law concerning adoption of Charter.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. _____ of 20 ____ of the County of _____ State of New York, having been submitted to the electors at the General Election of November _____ 20 _____, pursuant to subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 33 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the cities of said county as a unit and a majority of the qualified electors of the towns of said county considered as a unit voting at said general election, became operative.

(If any other authorized form of final adoption has been followed, please provide an appropriate certification.)

I further certify that I have compared the preceding local law with the original on file in this office and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original local law, and was finally adopted in the manner indicated in paragraph 2 above.

Clerk of the county legislative body, City, Town or Village Clerk or officer designated by local legislative body

(Seal)

Date: _____

A Public Hearing was held on the foregoing **Local Law Intro. No. 1-2-2023** on May 9,
2023 due notice thereof having been published in the official newspapers of the County of Erie
designated for this purpose, and after due deliberation thereon, I, MARK C. POLONCARZ,
County Executive of Erie County, do hereby APPROVE and SIGN said Local Law this 10
day of **May, 2023**.



Mark C. Poloncarz

A Public Hearing was held on the foregoing **Local Law Intro. No. 1-2-2023** on _____,
2023 due notice thereof having been published in the official newspapers of the County of Erie
designated for this purpose, and after due deliberation thereon, I, MARK C. POLONCARZ,
County Executive of Erie County, do hereby DISAPPROVE and VETO said Local Law this
____ day of **May, 2023**.

Mark C. Poloncarz