



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

V E T O # 85

TO THE SENATE:

JAN 02 2012

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

Senate Bill Number 4655, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the volunteer firefighters’ benefit law, in relation to the New York state fallen firefighter memorial”

N O T A P P R O V E D

The death of any firefighter is a tragedy, and it is appropriate to honor those firefighters, both volunteer and paid, who have sacrificed their lives to protect the public. The New York State Fallen Firefighters Memorial Wall is one way to remember those firefighters whom their peers have determined have made that ultimate sacrifice.

I am sympathetic to the families and colleagues of every firefighter who has died in circumstances that do not make that firefighter eligible for inclusion on the State Memorial Wall, and this was a very difficult decision, but there should not be one set of eligibility criteria for volunteer firefighters and another for paid firefighters.

This bill is disapproved.