



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

VETO # 286

December 7, 2018

TO THE ASSEMBLY:

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

Assembly Bill Number 6320-A, entitled:

“AN ACT to grant Danielle Galasso a retroactive membership date in the New York state and local employees' retirement system”

Assembly Bill Number 8164-B, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to impairments of health, presumption and staph/MRSA”

Assembly Bill Number 8402-A, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to transfer of retirement membership for certain employees of SUNY within professional, scientific and technical bargaining unit”

Assembly Bill Number 8411-B, entitled:

“AN ACT granting retroactive membership in the New York state and local employees' retirement system to Joseph J. Maltese”

Assembly Bill Number 9667, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to optional disability coverage for county probation officers”

Assembly Bill Number 9909, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to accidental disability retirement for uniformed court officers and peace officers employed in the unified court system”

Assembly Bill Number 9910, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to eligibility for retirement benefits for certain members of the unified court system”

Assembly Bill Number 9935-A, entitled:

Assembly Bill Number 10735, entitled:

“AN ACT to amend the civil service law, in relation to credit for unused sick leave for employees of community colleges”

Assembly Bill Number 10770, entitled:

“AN ACT granting retroactive membership in the New York state and local employees' retirement system to Shawn Coveny”

NOT APPROVED

These bills would provide State and local public employees with a variety of enhanced retirement benefits without offering any funding sources to cover their costs in the current fiscal year or in future years.

I have vetoed similar or identical bills in each of the past several years because the costs imposed were not accounted for in the State's financial plan. In order to provide all of the benefits associated with these bills, the State and its localities would be required to pay a combined, estimated total of \$53 million in near-term costs. As the Legislature has failed to appropriate any funds to pay for these benefits, I cannot support a package of bills that would necessarily impose a substantial and unplanned burden on New York State taxpayers.

Moreover, these costs will also place an undue fiscal pressure on local governments who provide vital services to their residents. Fixed costs associated with pension enhancements hinder the ability of local governments to function within current property tax levels and negatively impact the State's economic competitiveness. As such costs must be addressed in the context of annual budget negotiations, I am therefore constrained to veto these bills.

Even where a bill provides an opt-in for local governments, the issue of expanded benefits needs further study in the context of the state budget process to ensure the fiscal viability for municipalities.

Finally, these bills would establish a negative precedent for other employees to seek similar unfunded benefits.

These bills are disapproved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Cuomo". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.