S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

4515

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 8, 2011

Introduced by Sen. MARTINS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Insurance

AN ACT prohibiting public employers from diminishing the health insurance benefits and contributions of retired public employees in the New York state and local employees' retirement system

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. On and after the effective date of this act, a public employer shall be prohibited from diminishing the health insurance benefits provided to public employee retirees and their dependents or the contributions such employer makes for such health insurance coverage below the level of such benefits or contributions made on behalf of such retirees and their dependents by such employer unless a corresponding diminution of benefits or contributions is effected from the level of benefits or contributions provided to a corresponding group of active employees for such retirees.

S 2. For purposes of this act, "public employee retirees and their dependents" shall mean retired members and dependents of the New York state and local employees' retirement system.

S 3. For purposes of this act, "public employer" shall mean the following: (i) the state; (ii) a county, city, town or village; (iii) any governmental entity operating a college or university; (iv) a public improvement or special district; (v) a public authority, commission or public benefit corporation; or (vi) any other public corporation, agency, instrumentality or unit of government which exercises governmental power under the laws of this state.

S 4. Nothing contained in this act shall supersede or diminish the terms of a collective bargaining agreement.

S 5. Nothing contained in this act shall require a public employer which does not provide health insurance benefits to retirees and their dependents as of the effective date of this act to offer such benefits.

S 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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