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I N   S E N A T E

January 14, 2014

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Introduced by Sens. ZELDIN, MAZIARZ -- read twice and ordered printed,  
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to service award  
programs

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

1     Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 8 of section 219-d of the  
2     general municipal law, as amended by chapter 514 of the laws of 1998, is  
3     amended to read as follows:  
4     (b) The entitlement age, the number of years of ambulance service  
5     required to obtain a nonforfeitable right to a service award, and the  
6     activities for which points shall be granted toward a year of ambulance  
7     service may be changed by resolution adopted by the affirmative vote of  
8     at least sixty percent of the governing board of the sponsor without  
9     referendum; PROVIDED, THAT, CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SUBDIVI-  
10    SION THREE OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED NINETEEN-M OF THIS CHAPTER, IF THE  
11    EFFECT OF THE AMENDMENT IS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF POINTS GRANTED FOR  
12    THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ACTIVITY, DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF AN ACTIVITY  
13    REQUIRED TO EARN THE POINTS GRANTED FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ACTIVITY,  
14    OR BOTH, SUCH AMENDMENT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A MANDATORY REFERENDUM. ANY  
15    AMENDMENT TO A SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM SHALL ONLY TAKE EFFECT AS OF THE  
16    FIRST OF JANUARY NEXT SUCCEEDING COMPLETION OF THE PROCEEDINGS REQUIRED  
17    FOR ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT AND SHALL ONLY APPLY PROSPECTIVELY.  
18    S 2. Subdivision 3 of section 219-k of the general municipal law, as  
19    added by chapter 558 of the laws of 1998, is amended to read as follows:  
20    3. ["Entitlement age" means age sixty-five and, except in the case of  
21    disability or death, shall be the earliest age at which a participant  
22    who has a nonforfeitable right to a service award is entitled to apply  
23    for and begin receiving a service award.] "ENTITLEMENT AGE" MEANS THE  
24    AGE DESIGNATED BY THE SPONSOR AT WHICH A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT IS ENTITLED  
25    TO BEGIN RECEIVING AN UNREDUCED SERVICE AWARD. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE  
26    ENTITLEMENT AGE UNDER A PROGRAM BE EARLIER THAN AGE FIFTY-FIVE NOR LATER  
27    THAN THE AGE AT WHICH THE PARTICIPANT CAN RECEIVE AN UNREDUCED BENEFIT  
28    UNDER TITLE II OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (PUBLIC LAW 74-271 U.S.C. 306

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

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1 ET SEQ.). NO SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM MAY PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF BENE-  
2 FITS (EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF DEATH OR DISABILITY) BEFORE AGE FIFTY-FIVE.

3 S 3. Paragraph (h) of subdivision 5 of section 219-1 of the general  
4 municipal law, as added by chapter 558 of the laws of 1998, is amended  
5 and a new paragraph (i) is added to read as follows:

6 (h) the date on which the proposition authorizing the adoption of the  
7 program shall be submitted to referendum[.]; AND

8 (I) ENTITLEMENT AGE- THE AGE AT WHICH VOLUNTEERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO BEGIN  
9 RECEIVING SERVICE AWARDS.

10 S 4. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 9 of section 219-1 of the general  
11 municipal law, as added by chapter 558 of the laws of 1998, is amended  
12 to read as follows:

13 (b) The activities for which points shall be granted toward a year of  
14 ambulance service may be changed by resolution adopted by the affirma-  
15 tive vote of at least sixty percent of the governing board of the spon-  
16 sor without referendum; PROVIDED, THAT, CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS  
17 OF SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED NINETEEN-M OF THIS ARTICLE,  
18 IF THE EFFECT OF THE AMENDMENT IS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF POINTS  
19 GRANTED FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ACTIVITY, DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF AN  
20 ACTIVITY REQUIRED TO EARN THE POINTS GRANTED FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE  
21 ACTIVITY, OR BOTH, SUCH AMENDMENT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A MANDATORY REFER-  
22 ENDUM. ANY AMENDMENT TO A SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM SHALL ONLY TAKE EFFECT  
23 AS OF THE FIRST OF JANUARY NEXT SUCCEEDING COMPLETION OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
24 REQUIRED FOR ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT AND SHALL ONLY APPLY PROSPECTIVE-  
25 LY.

26 S 5. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-  
27 ing the date on which it shall have become a law; provided, however,  
28 that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any  
29 rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its  
30 effective date are authorized and directed to be made and completed by  
31 the state comptroller on or before such date.