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

11491

I N A S S E M B L Y

June 17, 2010

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Abbate) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Employees

AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to service retirement benefits for court reporters employed by the unified court system

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

Section 1. Subdivision b of section 442 of the retirement and social security law is amended by adding a new paragraph 1-a to read as follows:

1-A. A MEMBER WHO IS A COURT REPORTER EMPLOYED BY THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM MAY RETIRE WITHOUT REDUCTION OF HIS OR HER RETIREMENT BENEFIT UPON HIS OR HER ATTAINMENT OF AT LEAST FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE AND COMPLETION OF TWENTY-FIVE OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE; AND

S 2. Subdivision a of section 503 of the retirement and social security law, as amended by chapter 662 of the laws of 1988, is amended to read as follows:

a. The normal service retirement benefit specified in section five hundred four OF THIS ARTICLE shall be payable to general members, other than elective members, who have met the minimum service requirements upon retirement and attainment of age sixty-two, provided, however, a general member who is a peace officer employed by the unified court system or a member of a teachers' retirement system may retire without reduction of his or her retirement benefit upon attainment of at least fifty-five years of age and completion of thirty or more years of service; AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT A GENERAL MEMBER WHO IS A COURT REPORTER EMPLOYED BY THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM MAY RETIRE WITHOUT REDUCTION OF HIS OR HER RETIREMENT BENEFIT UPON ATTAINMENT OF AT LEAST FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE AND COMPLETION OF TWENTY-FIVE OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE.

S 3. Subdivision a of section 603 of the retirement and social security law, as amended by section 7 of part B of chapter 504 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

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

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a. The service retirement benefit specified in section six hundred four of this article shall be payable to members who have met the minimum service requirements upon retirement and attainment of age sixty-two, other than members who are eligible for early service retirement pursuant to subdivision c of section six hundred four-b of this article, subdivision c of section six hundred four-c of this article, subdivision d of section six hundred four-d of this article, subdivision c of section six hundred four-e of this article, subdivision c of section six hundred four-f of this article, subdivision c of section six hundred four-g of this article, subdivision c of section six hundred four-h of this article or subdivision c of section six hundred four-i of this article, provided, however, a member of a teachers' retirement system or the New York state and local employees' retirement system who first joins such system before January first, two thousand ten or a member who is a uniformed court officer or peace officer employed by the unified court system may retire without reduction of his or her retirement benefit upon attainment of at least fifty-five years of age and completion of thirty or more years of service, provided, however, that a uniformed court officer or peace officer employed by the unified court system who first becomes a member of the New York state and local employees' retirement system on or after January first, two thousand ten and retires without reduction of his or her retirement benefit upon attainment of at least fifty-five years of age and completion of thirty or more years of service pursuant to this section shall be required to make the member contributions required by subdivision f of section six hundred thirteen of this article for all years of credited and creditable service. A MEMBER WHO IS A COURT REPORTER EMPLOYED BY THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM MAY RETIRE WITHOUT REDUCTION OF HIS OR HER RETIREMENT BENEFIT UPON ATTAINMENT OF AT LEAST FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE AND COMPLETION OF TWENTY-FIVE OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE.

S 4. Subdivision a of section 603 of the retirement and social security law, as amended by section 3-a of chapter 19 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

a. The service retirement benefit specified in section six hundred four of this article shall be payable to members who have met the minimum service requirements upon retirement and attainment of age sixty-two, other than members who are eligible for early service retirement pursuant to subdivision c of section six hundred four-b of this article, subdivision c of section six hundred four-c of this article, subdivision d of section six hundred four-d of this article, subdivision c of section six hundred four-e of this article, subdivision c of section six hundred four-f of this article, subdivision c of section six hundred four-g of this article, subdivision c of section six hundred four-h of this article or subdivision c of section six hundred four-i of this article provided, however, a member who is a peace officer employed by the unified court system or a member of a teachers' retirement system or the New York state and local employees' retirement system may retire without reduction of his or her retirement benefit upon attainment of at least fifty-five years of age and completion of thirty or more years of service; A MEMBER WHO IS A COURT REPORTER EMPLOYED BY THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM MAY RETIRE WITHOUT REDUCTION OF HIS OR HER RETIREMENT BENEFIT UPON ATTAINMENT OF AT LEAST FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE AND COMPLETION OF TWENTY-FIVE OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE.

S 5. Paragraph 1 of subdivision b of section 902 of the retirement and social security law, as amended by section 10 of part B of chapter 504 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

1. [An] EXCEPT FOR A COURT REPORTER OF THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM, AN eligible employee (i) with a date of membership in a retirement system on or after July twenty-seventh, nineteen hundred seventy-six and before January first, two thousand ten, and (ii) who has ten or more years of membership or ten or more years of credited service with a retirement system under the provisions of article fourteen or fifteen of this chapter shall not be required to contribute to a retirement system pursuant to section five hundred seventeen or six hundred thirteen of this chapter as of the cessation date. COURT REPORTERS OF THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM WITH TEN OR MORE YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP OR TEN OR MORE YEARS OF CREDITED SERVICE SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE TO A RETIREMENT SYSTEM PURSUANT TO SECTION SIX HUNDRED THIRTEEN OF THIS CHAPTER.

S 6. The cost attributable to the operation of this act shall be borne by the unified court system.

S 7. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, that the amendments to subdivision a of section 603 of the retirement and social security law made by section three of this act shall be subject to the expiration and reversion of such subdivision pursuant to section 13 of chapter 682 of the laws of 2003, as amended, when upon such date the provisions of section four of this act shall take effect.

FISCAL NOTE.--Pursuant to Legislative Law, Section 50:

This bill would allow Tier 2, 3, 4 and 5 Court Reporters employed by the Unified Court System to retire without benefit reduction due to early retirement upon the attainment of age fifty-five (55) and completion of at least twenty-five (25) years of service. In addition, the bill will provide that Tier 5 court reporters will stop paying 3% member contributions after ten years of service credit.

If this bill is enacted, we anticipate that there will be an increase of approximately $220,000 in the annual contributions of the State of New York, on behalf of the Unified Court System for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011. In addition, for all Tier 5 court reporters employed by the Unified Court System, there will also be an annual increase to the State of New York of approximately 2.4%.

In addition to the annual contributions discussed above, there will be an immediate past service cost of approximately $9.64 million which would be borne by the State of New York as a one-time payment. This estimate is based on the assumption that payment will be made on March 1, 2011.

These estimated costs are based on one thousand sixty-two (1,062) known affected court reporters having a total estimated annual salary for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009 of approximately $100 million.

This estimate, dated June 9, 2010 and intended for use only during the 2010 Legislative Session, is Fiscal Note No. 2010-164, prepared by the Actuary for the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System.