

2337

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 19, 2011

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Introduced by Sen. RANZENHOFER -- read twice and ordered printed, and  
when printed to be committed to the Committee on Civil Service and  
Pensions

AN ACT to amend the civil service law, in relation to binding arbitration for certain public employees

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

1     Section 1. The opening paragraph of subparagraph (v) of paragraph (c)  
2 of subdivision 4 of section 209 of the civil service law, as amended by  
3 chapter 216 of the laws of 1977, is amended to read as follows:  
4     the public arbitration panel shall make a just and reasonable determination of the matters in dispute. In arriving at such determination, the  
5 panel shall CONSIDER, ABOVE ALL OTHER FACTORS, THE FINANCIAL ABILITY OF  
6 THE PUBLIC EMPLOYER TO PAY. THE PUBLIC EMPLOYER'S ABILITY TO PAY SHALL  
7 BE DEFINED AS EXISTING FISCAL CAPACITY WITHOUT RESORT TO EITHER NEW OR  
8 INCREASED TAXATION INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE LEVEL OF TAXATION  
9 IN THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION COMPARED TO SIMILAR POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS  
10 IN OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE, THE TAX BASE, ANY EVIDENCE OF ECONOMIC  
11 DECLINE AND ANY OTHER APPLICABLE MEASURES OF FISCAL DISTRESS, OR  
12 EXTRAORDINARY REDUCTIONS IN OTHER GOVERNMENTAL EXPENDITURES. THE ARBITRATION PANEL SHALL ALSO CONSIDER THE COMPETING FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF  
13 THE PUBLIC EMPLOYER WHICH MAY BE AFFECTED BY SUCH DETERMINATION AND  
14 SPECIFICALLY THE IMPACT OF ANY SUCH DETERMINATION ON ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS OR SUCCESSOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYER. THE ARBITRATION PANEL SHALL  
15 SPECIFY ITS RATIONALE IN THE DETERMINATION, INCLUDING THE CONSIDERATION  
16 OF SUCH ABILITY OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYER TO PAY WITHOUT RESORT TO NEW OR  
17 INCREASED TAXATION. THE PANEL SHALL specify the basis for its findings,  
18 taking into SECONDARY consideration, in addition to any other relevant  
19 factors, the following:  
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EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 S 2. Clause b of subparagraph (v) of paragraph (c) of subdivision 4 of  
2 section 209 of the civil service law, as amended by chapter 216 of the  
3 laws of 1977, is amended to read as follows:

4 b. the interests and welfare of the public [and the financial ability  
5 of the public employer to pay];

6 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately, except that sections one  
7 and two of this act shall only apply to disputes referred to a public  
8 arbitration panel on or after the effective date of this act, and  
9 provided that the amendment to the opening paragraph of subparagraph (v)  
10 of paragraph (c) of subdivision 4 of section 209 of the civil service  
11 law made by section one of this act and the amendment to clause b of  
12 subparagraph (v) of paragraph (c) of subdivision 4 of section 209 of the  
13 civil service law made by section two of this act shall not affect the  
14 expiration of such subdivision and shall be deemed to expire therewith.