

3995

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 30, 2013

Introduced by M. of A. ABBATE, BRENNAN, BROOK-KRASNY, CLARK, COOK, CYMBROWITZ, DenDEKKER, ESPINAL, GIBSON, KELLNER, MILLER -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. GOTTFRIED, HIKIND, PRETLOW, THIELE, TITONE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Employees

AN ACT to amend the racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breeding law, in relation to provision of health insurance and supplemental benefits to retirees of the New York city off-track betting corporation; and making an appropriation therefor

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

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The state of New York has an interest
2 in the welfare of its citizens, and the general welfare of its senior
3 citizens is a matter of great public concern to the state. On December
4 7, 2010, the New York city off-track betting corporation, a public bene-
5 fit corporation created in 1973 pursuant to article VI of the racing,
6 pari-mutual wagering and breeding law ceased operations. The legislature
7 finds that, since its inception, off-track betting in the city of New
8 York provided the state with significant revenues to support government
9 operations. The legislature further finds that after the governor issued
10 an executive order to allow the New York city off-track betting corpo-
11 ration to file for bankruptcy pursuant to Chapter 9 of the United States
12 Bankruptcy Code, the unions representing the employees of such off-track
13 betting corporation worked tirelessly to assist the corporation in its
14 restructuring efforts, including two collective bargaining agreements
15 wherein the employees made significant concessions, including voluntary
16 separation from the corporation, in order to save the corporation and
17 assist their fellow employees.

18 The legislature further finds that employees retired from such corpo-
19 ration, after having received the assurance that they and their depen-
20 dants would receive health insurance and supplemental benefit coverage
21 under their collective bargaining representative's welfare benefit

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

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1 program. After the closure of the New York city off-track betting corpo-
2 ration, those benefits ceased.

3 The legislature further finds that cessation of these benefits to
4 public employees who have devoted their working lives to service of a
5 state public benefit corporation works a great injustice and a severe
6 hardship to the retirees and their dependants, thereby putting their
7 health and very lives in danger.

8 The legislature further finds that by honoring the commitment to
9 provide health insurance and supplemental benefits to retirees of the
10 New York city off-track betting corporation, the state reaffirms its
11 commitment to ameliorate the deleterious impact which the closure of
12 such corporation has had upon the citizens of the state.

13 S 2. Subdivision 4 of section 606 of the racing, pari-mutuel wagering
14 and breeding law, as amended by chapter 115 of the laws of 2008, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 4. All [employees and officers] PRESENT AND FUTURE RETIREES of the
17 corporation in classes or positions whose incumbents, in equivalent
18 classes or positions of the city, are eligible, as of the effective date
19 hereof, to participate in, and receive benefits from any city authorized
20 health insurance or welfare benefit program, shall be eligible to
21 participate in, and receive benefits from any such health insurance or
22 welfare benefit program; provided, however, that the [corporation] STATE
23 shall reimburse the city or its designee for the actual cost of benefits
24 under this subdivision.

25 S 3. The sum of seven million dollars (\$7,000,000), or so much thereof
26 as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the department of civil
27 service out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to
28 the credit of the aid to localities account, not otherwise appropriated,
29 and made immediately available, for the purpose of carrying out the
30 provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and
31 warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the
32 president of the civil service commission in the manner prescribed by
33 law.

34 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.