

3221

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

February 3, 2015

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

AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law and the civil service law, in relation to university police officers appointed by the state university of New York

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

1     Section 1. Subdivision 11 of section 302 of the retirement and social  
2     security law is amended by adding a new paragraph i to read as follows:  
3     I. SERVICE AS A UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER APPOINTED BY THE STATE  
4     UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH L OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF  
5     SECTION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE OF THE EDUCATION LAW.  
6     S 2. Subdivision d of section 375-f of the retirement and social secu-  
7     rity law, as separately amended by chapters 674 and 677 of the laws of  
8     1986, is amended to read as follows:  
9     d. In addition to the retirement allowance provided pursuant to the  
10    plans set forth in sections three hundred eighty-three, three hundred  
11    eighty-three-a [and], three hundred eighty-three-b AND THREE HUNDRED  
12    EIGHTY-THREE-D of this [chapter] ARTICLE, a member of [either] ANY such  
13    plan who retires on or after April first, nineteen hundred sixty-nine  
14    with more than twenty-five years of total service shall be entitled to  
15    receive, in addition to the benefits provided pursuant to [either] ANY  
16    such section and notwithstanding the limitations of [either] ANY such  
17    section, an additional retirement allowance for such years of service  
18    rendered in excess of twenty-five. The additional retirement allowance  
19    for such additional years of service shall be computed as if such member  
20    had been eligible to have his retirement allowance computed pursuant to  
21    the provisions of subdivision b of section three hundred seventy-five-c  
22    and of paragraph one of subdivision a of section three hundred seventy-  
23    five-d of this [chapter] TITLE.

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

LBD08196-01-5

1 S 3. The retirement and social security law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 383-d to read as follows:

3 S 383-D. ALTERNATIVE RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFI-  
4 CERS APPOINTED BY THE STATE UNIVERSITY. A. AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE  
5 TERM "UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER" SHALL MEAN A PERSON WHO IS SO APPOINTED  
6 PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH L OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION THREE HUNDRED  
7 FIFTY-FIVE OF THE EDUCATION LAW.

8 B. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW PROVIDING FOR TRANSFERS  
9 BETWEEN RETIREMENT SYSTEMS, ANY UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER IN THE SERVICE  
10 OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK STATE EMPLOYEES'  
11 RETIREMENT SYSTEM MAY TRANSFER TO THE NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL POLICE  
12 AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND SHALL RECEIVE CREDIT PURSUANT TO AND BE  
13 ENTITLED TO THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS AFFORDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
14 SECTION. UPON ANY SUCH TRANSFER THE MEMBER SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THE  
15 AMOUNT OF SERVICE WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN DEEMED CREDITABLE HAD SUCH  
16 MEMBER BEEN SUBJECT TO SUCH SYSTEM DURING THE COURSE OF HIS OR HER  
17 MEMBERSHIP WITHIN SUCH SYSTEM. CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUCH SYSTEM SHALL BE  
18 MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROPRIATE PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATING THERETO.  
19 APPLICATION FOR SUCH TRANSFER MUST BE MADE TO THE STATE COMPTROLLER ON  
20 OR BEFORE DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN. THE PROVISIONS OF  
21 SECTION THREE HUNDRED FORTY-THREE OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL APPLY TO ANY  
22 MEMBER MAKING APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION.

23 C. ANY UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER IN THE SERVICE OF THE STATE UNIVERSI-  
24 TY WHO ELECTS OR IS REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL  
25 CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT  
26 SYSTEM ON THE BASIS OF RETIREMENT UPON HIS OR HER:

27 1. COMPLETION OF TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF TOTAL CREDITABLE SERVICE; OR

28 2. ATTAINMENT OF AGE SIXTY AS A UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER IN THE  
29 SERVICE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY, IF PRIOR THERETO, ON AN ALLOWANCE OF  
30 ONE-FIFTIETH OF HIS OR HER FINAL AVERAGE SALARY FOR EACH YEAR OF TOTAL  
31 CREDITABLE SERVICE NOT IN EXCESS OF TWENTY-FIVE YEARS. SUCH ELECTION  
32 SHALL BE IN WRITING AND SHALL BE DULY EXECUTED AND FILED WITH THE COMP-  
33 TROLLER.

34 D. EVERY EMPLOYEE ENTERING OR RE-ENTERING SERVICE AS A UNIVERSITY  
35 POLICE OFFICER IN THE SERVICE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY ON OR AFTER THE  
36 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION SHALL CONTRIBUTE ON THE BASIS PROVIDED  
37 FOR BY THIS SECTION.

38 E. A MEMBER WHO IS REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
39 SECTION SHALL CONTRIBUTE, IN LIEU OF THE PROPORTION OF COMPENSATION AS  
40 PROVIDED IN SECTION THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE OF THIS ARTICLE, A PROPOR-  
41 TION OF HIS OR HER COMPENSATION SIMILARLY DETERMINED. SUCH LATTER  
42 PROPORTION SHALL BE COMPUTED TO PROVIDE AT THE TIME WHEN HE OR SHE SHALL  
43 FIRST BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR RETIREMENT UNDER THIS SECTION, AN ANNUITY  
44 EQUAL TO ONE-ONE HUNDREDTH OF HIS OR HER FINAL AVERAGE SALARY FOR EACH  
45 YEAR OF SERVICE AS A MEMBER PRIOR TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THE AGE WHEN HE  
46 OR SHE SHALL FIRST BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR RETIREMENT. SUCH MEMBER'S RATE OF  
47 CONTRIBUTION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE APPROPRIATELY REDUCED  
48 PURSUANT TO SECTION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-A OF THIS ARTICLE FOR SUCH  
49 PERIOD OF TIME AS HIS OR HER EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTES PURSUANT TO SUCH  
50 SECTION TOWARD PENSIONS-PROVIDING-FOR-INCREASED-TAKE-HOME-PAY. NO SUCH  
51 MEMBER SHALL BE REQUIRED TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTIONS AFTER COMPLETING  
52 TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SUCH SERVICE.

53 F. A MEMBER CONTRIBUTING ON THE BASIS OF THIS SECTION, AT THE TIME OF  
54 RETIREMENT, SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RETIRE AFTER THE COMPLETION OF TWENTY-  
55 FIVE YEARS OF TOTAL CREDITABLE SERVICE OR UPON THE ATTAINMENT OF AGE  
56 SIXTY BY FILING AN APPLICATION THEREFOR IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO THAT

1 PROVIDED IN SECTION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY OF THIS ARTICLE. HE OR SHE  
2 SHALL RECEIVE, ON RETIREMENT, A RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE CONSISTING OF:

3 1. AN ANNUITY WHICH SHALL BE THE ACTUARIAL EQUIVALENT OF HIS OR HER  
4 ACCUMULATED CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE TIME OF HIS OR HER RETIREMENT, PLUS

5 2. A PENSION WHICH, TOGETHER WITH SUCH ANNUITY AND A PENSION WHICH IS  
6 THE ACTUARIAL EQUIVALENT OF THE RESERVE-FOR-INCREASED-TAKE-HOME-PAY TO  
7 WHICH HE OR SHE MAY THEN BE ENTITLED, IF ANY, SHALL EQUAL ONE-FIFTIETH  
8 OF HIS OR HER FINAL AVERAGE SALARY FOR EACH YEAR OF CREDITABLE SERVICE  
9 IN SUCH SERVICE. THIS PENSION SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT NEEDED TO MAKE  
10 THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH AND PARA-  
11 GRAPH ONE OF THIS SUBDIVISION EQUAL TO ONE-HALF OF FINAL AVERAGE SALARY.

12 3. AN ADDITIONAL PENSION EQUAL TO THE PENSION FOR ANY CREDITABLE  
13 SERVICE RENDERED WHILE NOT EMPLOYED AS A UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER IN  
14 THE SERVICE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPHS TWO AND  
15 THREE OF SUBDIVISION A OF SECTION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE OF THIS  
16 ARTICLE. THIS PENSION SHALL:

17 (I) BE PAYABLE ONLY IF SUCH MEMBER HAS ATTAINED AGE SIXTY AT THE TIME  
18 OF RETIREMENT AND HAS NOT COMPLETED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE AS A  
19 UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER IN THE SERVICE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY FOR  
20 WHICH HE OR SHE RECEIVES CREDIT UNDER THIS ARTICLE, AND

21 (II) NOT INCREASE THE TOTAL ALLOWANCE TO MORE THAN HE OR SHE WOULD  
22 HAVE RECEIVED HAD HIS OR HER TOTAL SERVICE BEEN RENDERED AS A UNIVERSITY  
23 POLICE OFFICER IN THE SERVICE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY. FOR THE PURPOSE  
24 ONLY OF DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF THE PENSION PROVIDED HEREIN, THE ANNU-  
25 ITY SHALL BE COMPUTED AS IT WOULD BE:

26 (A) IF NOT REDUCED BY THE ACTUARIAL EQUIVALENT OF ANY OUTSTANDING  
27 LOAN, AND

28 (B) IF NOT INCREASED BY THE ACTUARIAL EQUIVALENT OF ANY ADDITIONAL  
29 CONTRIBUTIONS, AND

30 (C) IF NOT REDUCED BY REASON OF THE MEMBER'S ELECTION TO DECREASE HIS  
31 OR HER ANNUITY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM IN ORDER TO APPLY  
32 THE AMOUNT OF SUCH REDUCTION IN PAYMENT OF HIS OR HER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR  
33 OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE COVERAGE.

34 G. THE INCREASED PENSIONS TO A UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER IN THE  
35 SERVICE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY, AS PROVIDED BY THIS SECTION, SHALL BE  
36 PAID FROM ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE STATE ON ACCOUNT OF SUCH  
37 MEMBERS. THE ACTUARY OF THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM SHALL COMPUTE THE ADDI-  
38 TIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF EACH MEMBER WHO ELECTS TO RECEIVE THE SPECIAL  
39 BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION. SUCH ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
40 SHALL BE COMPUTED ON THE BASIS OF CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THE PROSPECTIVE  
41 SERVICE OF SUCH MEMBER WHICH WILL COVER THE LIABILITY OF THE RETIREMENT  
42 SYSTEM FOR SUCH EXTRA PENSIONS. UPON APPROVAL BY THE COMPTROLLER, SUCH  
43 ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS SHALL BE CERTIFIED BY HIM OR HER TO THE CHAN-  
44 CELLOR OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY. THE AMOUNT THEREOF SHALL BE INCLUDED IN  
45 THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION OF THE STATE FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY. SUCH  
46 AMOUNT SHALL BE PAID ON THE WARRANT OF THE COMPTROLLER TO THE PENSION  
47 ACCUMULATION FUND OF THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

48 H. IN COMPUTING THE TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF COMPLETED SERVICE OF A  
49 UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER IN THE SERVICE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY, FULL  
50 CREDIT SHALL BE GIVEN AND FULL ALLOWANCE SHALL BE MADE FOR SERVICE OF  
51 SUCH MEMBER IN WAR AFTER WORLD WAR I AS DEFINED IN SECTION TWO OF THIS  
52 CHAPTER, PROVIDED SUCH MEMBER AT THE TIME OF HIS OR HER ENTRANCE INTO  
53 THE ARMED FORCES WAS IN STATE SERVICE, AND FULL CREDIT AND FULL ALLOW-  
54 ANCE SHALL BE MADE FOR SERVICE AS A UNIVERSITY PEACE OFFICER PRIOR TO  
55 THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHAPTER FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR OF THE LAWS OF  
56 NINETEEN HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHT.

1 I. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONTROLLING NOTWITHSTANDING  
2 ANY PROVISION IN THIS ARTICLE TO THE CONTRARY.

3 J. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF SUBDIVISION D, E OR I OF THIS  
4 SECTION TO THE CONTRARY, A MEMBER WHO IS IN THE COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING  
5 UNIT DESIGNATED AS THE AGENCY POLICE SERVICES UNIT AND ESTABLISHED  
6 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW AND WHO HAS  
7 ELECTED OR IS REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION  
8 MAY, ON OR BEFORE MARCH THIRTY-FIRST, TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN, ELECT TO  
9 COME UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE-H OF  
10 THIS ARTICLE. SUCH ELECTION SHALL BE DULY EXECUTED AND FILED WITH THE  
11 COMPTROLLER.

12 K. COMMENCING WITH THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION AND IN A MANNER  
13 DETERMINED BY THE HEAD OF THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM, THE STATE, AS EMPLOYER,  
14 SHALL MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO FUND THE PAST  
15 SERVICE LIABILITY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS  
16 SECTION AS THOSE COSTS ARE CALCULATED BY THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM ACTUARY.  
17 SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS MAY, AT THE ELECTION OF THE EMPLOYER, BE AMORTIZED  
18 OVER A TEN YEAR PERIOD.

19 S 4. No employee contributions made to the New York state and local  
20 employees' retirement system by any state university police officer who  
21 elects to transfer pursuant to this act shall be returned to such offi-  
22 cer. Such employee contributions shall be used to offset any past  
23 service costs incurred by operation of the provisions of this act.

24 S 5. Notwithstanding subdivision h of section 343 of the retirement  
25 and social security law, the provisions of subdivisions c and d of  
26 section 343 of the retirement and social security law shall apply and  
27 the employer contributions reserve shall be transferred from the appro-  
28 priate fund or funds of the New York state and local employees' retire-  
29 ment system to the New York state and local police and fire retirement  
30 system.

31 S 6. Subdivision 3 of section 58 of the civil service law, as amended  
32 by chapter 244 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

33 3. As used in this section, the term "police officer" means a police  
34 officer in the department of environmental conservation, THE STATE  
35 UNIVERSITY POLICE, a member of the regional state park police or a  
36 police force, police department, or other organization of a county,  
37 city, town, village, housing authority, transit authority or police  
38 district, who is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime  
39 and the enforcement of the general criminal laws of the state, but shall  
40 not include any person serving as such solely by virtue of his or her  
41 occupying any other office or position, nor shall such term include a  
42 sheriff, under-sheriff, commissioner of police, deputy or assistant  
43 commissioner of police, chief of police, deputy or assistant chief of  
44 police or any person having an equivalent title who is appointed or  
45 employed to exercise equivalent supervisory authority.

46 S 7. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subdivision 4 of section 58 of the  
47 civil service law, as amended by chapter 244 of the laws of 2013, are  
48 amended to read as follows:

49 (a) Any person who has received provisional or permanent appointment  
50 in the competitive class of the civil service as a police officer of the  
51 regional state park police, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK POLICE, the  
52 department of environmental conservation or any police force or police  
53 department of any county, city, town, village, housing authority, trans-  
54 it authority or police district shall be eligible to resign from any  
55 police force or police department, and to be appointed as a police offi-  
56 cer in the same or any other police force or police department without

1 satisfying the age requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of subdivi-  
2 sion one of this section at the time of such second or subsequent  
3 appointment, provided such second or subsequent appointment occurs with-  
4 in thirty days of the date of resignation.

5 (b) Any person who has received permanent appointment in the compet-  
6 itive class of the civil service as a police officer of the regional  
7 state park police, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK POLICE, the depart-  
8 ment of environmental conservation or any police force or police depart-  
9 ment of any county, city, town, village, housing authority, transit  
10 authority or police district shall be eligible to resign from any police  
11 force or police department and, subject to such civil service rules as  
12 may be applicable, shall be eligible for reinstatement in the same  
13 police force or police department or in any other police force or police  
14 department to which he or she was eligible for transfer, without satis-  
15 fying the age requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of subdivision one  
16 of this section at the time of such reinstatement, provided such rein-  
17 statement occurs within one year of the date of resignation.

18 S 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

This bill would allow State University Police Officers to elect to transfer to the New York State and Local Police and Fire Retirement System and to be covered by the provisions of a new twenty-five (25) year half pay retirement plan, with additional one-sixtieths of final average salary for each year of service in excess of twenty-five (25) years, but not exceeding fifteen (15) such years. For Tiers 2, 5, and 6 members, the additional one-sixtieths can not exceed seven (7) such years. There will be no refund of Article 14 or Article 15 member contributions for officers who elect to transfer to the Police and Fire Retirement system.

If this bill is enacted, we anticipate that there will be an increase of approximately \$1.1 million in the annual contributions of the State of New York for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016.

In addition to the annual contributions discussed above, it is estimated that there will be an immediate past service cost of \$9.72 million which would be borne by the State of New York, assuming that payment will be made on March 1, 2016. If this cost is amortized over ten (10) years, the cost for the first year, including interest, would be \$1.32 million.

These estimated costs are based on five hundred sixteen (516) State University Police Officers with a total estimated salary of approximately \$39 million for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014.

Summary of relevant resources:

The membership data used in measuring the impact of the proposed change was the same as that used in the March 31, 2014 actuarial valuation. Distributions and other statistics can be found in the 2014 Report of the Actuary and the 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

The actuarial assumptions and methods used are described in the 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 Annual Report to the Comptroller on Actuarial Assumptions, and the Codes Rules and Regulations of the State of New York: Audit and Control.

The Market Assets and GASB Disclosures are found in the March 31, 2014 New York State and Local Retirement System Financial Statements and Supplementary Information.

I am a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet the Qualification Standards to render the actuarial opinion contained herein.

This estimate, dated January 16, 2015 and intended for use only during the 2015 Legislative Session, is Fiscal Note No. 2015-30 prepared by the Actuary for the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System and the New York State and Local Police and Fire Retirement System.