

STATE OF NEW YORK

6898--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

October 4, 2017

Introduced by Sens. GOLDEN, GALLIVAN, KAMINSKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules -- recommitted to the Committee on Local Government in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law and the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to sick leave for officers and employees with a qualifying World Trade Center condition; to amend the civil service law, in relation to the review of certain claims; and to amend chapter 273 of the laws of 2017 amending the general municipal law, relating to granting sick leave for officers and employees with a qualifying World Trade Center condition, in relation to the reimbursement of any public authority or municipal corporation in a city with a population of less than one million people for the cost of certain line of duty sick leave

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 92-d of the general municipal law, as added by
2 chapter 273 of the laws of 2017, is amended to read as follows:
3 § 92-d. Sick leave for officers and employees with a qualifying World
4 Trade Center condition. Notwithstanding any other law, rule or regu-
5 lation to the contrary, officers and employees of the state, a public
6 authority or any municipal corporation outside of a city with a popu-
7 lation of one million or more who [~~filed-a~~] has filed and received
8 approval for his or her notice of participation in World Trade Center
9 rescue, recovery or cleanup operations and subsequently [~~develop~~] devel-
10 ops a qualifying World Trade Center condition, as defined in section two
11 of the retirement and social security law, while employed by the state,
12 a public authority or [~~such~~] a municipal corporation [~~or public authori-~~
13 ~~ty~~] shall be granted line of duty sick leave commencing on the date that
14 such employee was diagnosed with a qualifying World Trade Center condi-

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

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tion regardless of whether such officer or employee was employed by his or her current employer at the time that such officer or employee participated in World Trade Center rescue, recovery or cleanup operations, provided, however, no officer or employee shall receive line of duty sick leave for any date prior to the first date that he or she engaged in rescue, recovery or cleanup operations. The officer or employee shall be compensated at his or her regular rate of pay for those regular work hours during which the officer or employee is absent from work due to his or her qualifying World Trade Center condition. Such leave shall be provided without loss of an officer or employee's accrued sick leave. Nothing in this section shall limit an employer's power pursuant to another provision of law to discipline an officer or employee by termination, reduction of salary, or any other appropriate measure; to terminate an appointee who has not completed his or her probationary term; and to apply for ordinary or accident disability retirement for an officer or employee.

§ 2. The first undesignated paragraph of section 92-d of the general municipal law is designated subdivision 1 and seven new subdivisions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are added to read as follows:

2. Notwithstanding any other law, rule or regulation to the contrary, officers and employees of a city with a population of one million or more who (i) do not receive benefits similar to those provided by this section pursuant to a collectively bargained agreement, section 14-122.1 of the administrative code of the city of New York, section 15-108.1 of the administrative code of the city of New York, or other statutory provision and (ii) have filed and received approval for his or her notice of participation in World Trade Center rescue, recovery or cleanup operations and subsequently develops a qualifying World Trade Center condition, as defined in section two of the retirement and social security law, while employed by such municipal corporation, or the state, a public authority or municipal corporation outside of a city with a population of one million or more shall be granted line of duty sick leave commencing on the date that such employee was diagnosed with a qualifying World Trade Center condition regardless of whether such officer or employee was employed by his or her current employer at the time that such officer or employee participated in World Trade Center rescue, recovery or cleanup operations, provided, however, no officer or employee shall receive line of duty sick leave for any date prior to the first date that he or she engaged in rescue, recovery or clean up operations. The officer or employee shall be compensated at his or her regular rate of pay for those regular work hours during which the officer or employee is absent from work due to his or her qualifying World Trade Center condition. Such leave shall be provided without loss of an officer or employee's accrued sick leave. Nothing in this section shall limit an employer's power pursuant to another provision of law to discipline an officer or employee by termination, reduction of salary, or any other appropriate measure; to terminate an appointee who has not completed his or her probationary term; and to apply for ordinary or accident disability retirement for an officer or employee.

3. For purposes of this section, "cost" shall mean the number of days of sick leave that must be restored to an officer or employee pursuant to subdivision one of this section multiplied by such officer or employee's wage rate at the time that such sick leave for which reimbursement is being sought was taken. "Cost" shall not include any sick time taken by an officer or employee before such officer or employee filed his or

1 her notice of participation in World Trade Center rescue, recovery or
2 cleanup operations.

3 4. The application for line of duty sick leave shall include a waiver
4 of the protection afforded to the officer or employee pursuant to the
5 health insurance portability and accountability act for the purpose of
6 reviewing, processing and auditing his or her claim for line of duty
7 sick leave. An officer or employee filing an application for line of
8 duty sick leave shall file such waiver in the form required by the
9 retirement system of which he or she is a member, along with the appli-
10 cation for line of duty sick leave, with his or her employer.

11 5. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, upon request
12 from the state, public authority or municipal corporation outside of a
13 city with a population of one million or more for a copy of an approved
14 notice of participation in World Trade Center rescue, recovery or clean-
15 up operations for an officer or employee, the retirement system in which
16 such officer or employee is a member and to which such officer or
17 employee filed his or her notice of participation in World Trade Center
18 rescue, recovery or cleanup operations in accordance with paragraph (a)
19 of subdivision thirty-six of section two of the retirement and social
20 security law, such retirement system shall provide a verified copy of
21 such approved notice of participation that includes the date that such
22 notice was filed to such requestor. A copy of such verified notice of
23 participation shall be filed with any claim for reimbursement submitted
24 to the civil service commission pursuant to subdivision four of this
25 section. Except as required for filing, review, and audit purposes, such
26 verified notice of participation and all copies of such verified notice
27 shall be confidential and not subject to disclosure pursuant to article
28 six of the public officers law.

29 6. Such public authority or municipal corporation shall submit any
30 claim for reimbursement under this section to the civil service commis-
31 sion. In accordance with subdivision one-a of section six of the civil
32 service law, the civil service commission shall review each claim to
33 determine if such claim shall be approved, reduced, amended or rejected
34 and shall notify such public authority or municipal corporation, within
35 sixty days of receipt of such claim, as to its determination. Such
36 public authority or municipal corporation shall notify the civil service
37 commission within thirty days after receipt of the civil service commis-
38 sion's notification, as to its acceptance or rejection of such determi-
39 nation. Failure to so notify the civil service commission shall consti-
40 tute an acceptance of the determination. If accepted by such public
41 authority or municipal corporation, such acceptance shall constitute the
42 final and conclusive determination for such claim. If rejected by such
43 public authority or municipal corporation, such public authority or
44 municipal corporation shall resubmit its claim, within thirty days after
45 receipt of the civil service commission's notification, together with
46 its reasons for objection and any additional documentation which may
47 justify its claim. Upon receipt of a resubmitted claim, the civil
48 service commission shall review such claim and within sixty days of
49 receipt of such resubmitted claim, make a final determination as to the
50 amount to be approved for such claim. If such public authority or munic-
51 ipal corporation shall dispute such final determination it may commence
52 an action, within sixty days of such final determination, in the court
53 of claims which shall have jurisdiction to adjudicate the claim and
54 enter judgment, which judgment shall be a final determination for
55 purposes of this section and shall be payable in accordance with the
56 provisions of sections three and four of this chapter.

7. The civil service commission shall certify all claims for which a final determination has been made. The civil service commission shall submit all claims certified to the comptroller of the department of audit and control on or before the first day of the immediately succeeding month during which such claim was certified.

8. All claims certified by the civil service commission shall be paid monthly and shall be paid upon a warrant from the comptroller.

§ 3. Section 6 of the civil service law is amended by adding a new subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

1-a. Have the power to review claims for reimbursement submitted by public authorities or municipal corporations outside of a city with a population of a million or more pursuant to section ninety-two-d of the general municipal law to determine if such claim shall be approved, reduced, amended or rejected. Such review and determination shall be made in accordance with section ninety-two-d of the general municipal law.

§ 4. Section 2 of chapter 273 of the laws of 2017, amending the general municipal law relating to granting sick leave for officers and employees with a qualifying World Trade Center condition, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2. The state shall reimburse any public authority or municipal corporation in a city with a population of less than one million people for the cost of any line duty sick leave granted pursuant to this act. Such reimbursement shall be made in accordance with the provisions of section 92-d of the general municipal law.

§ 5. The administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 12-140 to read as follows:

§ 12-140 Notwithstanding any other law, rule or regulation to the contrary, officers and employees of a city with a population of one million or more who (i) do not receive benefits similar to those provided by this section pursuant to a collectively bargained agreement, section 14-122.1 of this code, section 15-108.1 of this code, or other statutory provision and (ii) filed a notice of participation in World Trade Center rescue, recovery or cleanup operations and subsequently develop a qualifying World Trade Center condition, as defined in section two of the retirement and social security law, whole employed by such municipal corporation, or the state, a public authority or municipal corporation outside of a city with a population of one million or more shall be granted line of duty sick leave commencing on the date that such employee was diagnosed with a qualifying World Trade Center condition regardless of whether such officer or employee was employed by his or her current employer at the time that such officer or employee participated in World Trade Center rescue, recovery or cleanup operations. The officer or employee shall be compensated at his or her regular rate of pay for those regular work hours during which the officer or employee is absent from work. Such leave shall be provided without loss of an officer or employee's accrued sick leave. Nothing in this section shall limit an employer's power pursuant to another provision of law to discipline an officer or employee by termination, reduction of salary, or any other appropriate measure; to terminate an appointee who has not completed his or her probationary term; and to apply for ordinary or accident disability retirement for an officer or employee.

§ 6. The commissioner of the department of civil service, in consultation with the state comptroller and the commissioner of the department of taxation and finance, shall issue guidance and/or promulgate regulations to assist with the implementation of section 92-d of the general

1 municipal law. Such guidance and/or regulations shall include, among
2 other things, the tax treatment to officers and employees who have
3 received restored sick leave. Such guidance and/or regulations shall be
4 issued no later than 60 days, and 90 days, respectively, after this act
5 shall become effective. Notwithstanding any other provisions to the
6 contrary in the state administrative procedure act, such rules and regu-
7 lations may be adopted on an emergency basis if necessary to meet such
8 90-day deadline.

9 § 7. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that section one
10 of this act shall be deemed to have been in full force and effect on the
11 same date as chapter 273 of the laws of 2017; and provided further that
12 this act shall apply to all claims for reimbursement filed pursuant to
13 section 92-d of the general municipal law, as amended by this act; and
14 provided further, that any officer or employee who is currently employed
15 by a city with a population of one million or more who has been diag-
16 nosed with a qualifying World Trade Center condition and is using sick
17 leave due to such condition shall receive a restoration of such sick
18 leave retroactive to the date such officer or employee was diagnosed
19 with a qualifying World Trade Center condition.