

STATE OF NEW YORK

8078

IN SENATE

March 17, 2020

Introduced by Sen. GOUNARDES -- 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, in relation to establishing disability retirement benefits for correction officers, correction supervisors, deputy sheriff patrols and deputy sheriff patrol supervisors who suffer any condition or impairment of health caused by methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) or Staph/MRSA

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

1 Section 1. The retirement and social security law is amended by adding
2 a new section 605-f to read as follows:

3 § 605-f. Disability retirement for correction officers, correction
4 supervisors, deputy sheriff patrols and deputy sheriff patrol supervi-
5 sors. a. A member employed as a correction officer, correction supervi-
6 sor, deputy sheriff patrol or deputy sheriff patrol supervisor shall be
7 entitled to a disability retirement allowance, if, at the time applica-
8 tion therefor is filed, such member is physically incapacitated for
9 performance of duty as a result of methicillin resistant staphylococcus
10 aureus (MRSA) or Staph/MRSA while so employed and as a result of his or
11 her employment.

12 b. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or of any general,
13 special or local law to the contrary, any correction officer, correction
14 supervisor, deputy sheriff patrol or deputy sheriff patrol supervisor
15 who is diagnosed with methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)
16 or Staph/MRSA, resulting in disability to such member, presently
17 employed, and who shall have sustained such disability while so
18 employed, shall have such diagnosis be presumptive evidence that such
19 disability was incurred in the performance and discharge of duty, unless
20 the contrary be proven by competent evidence; provided, however, that
21 prior to entry into service, such correction officer, correction super-
22 visor, deputy sheriff patrol or deputy sheriff patrol supervisor
23 successfully passed a physical examination which failed to disclose

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

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evidence of any methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) or Staph/MRSA.

c. The annual retirement allowance payable shall be equal to three-quarters of his or her final average salary.

§ 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, none of the provisions of this act shall be subject to section 25 of the retirement and social security law.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

This bill would allow certain members of the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement system (ERS) employed as correction officers, correction supervisors, deputy sheriff patrol, or deputy sheriff patrol supervisors to receive a performance of duty disability benefit of 75% of final average salary if he or she is disabled due to job related contraction of methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) or Staph/MRSA. There will be no reduction for any benefits received under Worker's Compensation.

If this bill is enacted, it would lead to more disabilities being classified as "in performance of duty". The cost of the revised benefit will depend upon the applicant's age, service, salary, plan, and benefit type otherwise payable.

Benefit without enactment:	None	Ordinary Disability	In Performance of Duty Disability	Service
Cost for revised benefit:	9.5 times salary	5.5 times salary	3 times salary	2.5 times salary

The number of members and retirees who could be affected by this legislation cannot be readily determined. All costs will be shared by the State of New York and the participating employers in the ERS.

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, 2019 actuarial valuation. Distributions and other statistics can be found in the 2019 Report of the Actuary and the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

The actuarial assumptions and methods used are described in the 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 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, 2019 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 fiscal note does not constitute a legal opinion on the viability of the proposed change nor is it intended to serve as a substitute for the professional judgment of an attorney.

This estimate, dated March 12, 2020, and intended for use only during the 2020 Legislative Session, is Fiscal Note No. 2020-94, prepared by the Actuary for the New York State and Local Retirement System.