

STATE OF NEW YORK

6289--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 10, 2025

Introduced by Sens. GOUNARDES, JACKSON, SCARCELLA-SPANTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Civil Service and Pensions -- recommitted to the Committee on Civil Service and Pensions 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 retirement and social security law, in relation to primary social security retirement benefits for police/fire members who are members of the New York city fire department pension fund

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

1 Section 1. Section 505 of the retirement and social security law, as
2 amended by chapter 18 of the laws of 2012, subdivision d as added by
3 section 3 of part SS of chapter 55 of the laws of 2025, is amended to
4 read as follows:
5 § 505. Service retirement benefits; police/fire members, New York city
6 uniformed correction/sanitation revised plan members and investigator
7 revised plan members. a. The normal service retirement benefit for
8 police/fire members, New York city uniformed correction/sanitation
9 revised plan members and investigator revised plan members at normal
10 retirement age shall be a pension equal to fifty percent of final aver-
11 age salary, less fifty percent of the primary social security retirement
12 benefit commencing at age sixty-two, as provided in section five hundred
13 eleven of this article, provided, however, that the computation of the
14 normal service retirement benefit of members of the New York city fire
15 department pension fund, shall not be reduced by the primary social
16 security retirement benefit commencing at age sixty-two as provided in
17 section five hundred eleven of this article.
18 b. The early service retirement benefit for police/fire members, New
19 York city uniformed correction/sanitation revised plan members and
20 investigator revised plan members shall be a pension equal to two and

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

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1 one-tenths percent of final average salary times years of credited
2 service at the completion of twenty years of service or upon attainment
3 of age sixty-two, increased by one-third of one percent of final average
4 salary for each month of service in excess of twenty years, but not in
5 excess of fifty percent of final average salary, less fifty percent of
6 the primary social security retirement benefit commencing at age sixty-
7 two as provided in section five hundred eleven of this article,
8 provided, however, that New York city police/fire revised plan members,
9 New York city uniformed correction/sanitation revised plan members and
10 investigator revised plan members shall not be eligible to retire for
11 service prior to the attainment of twenty years of credited service, and
12 provided further that the early service retirement benefit of members of
13 the New York city fire department pension fund shall not be reduced by
14 the primary social security retirement benefit commencing at age sixty-
15 two as provided by section five hundred eleven of this article.

16 c. A police/fire member, a New York city uniformed
17 correction/sanitation revised plan member or an investigator revised
18 plan member who retires with twenty-two years of credited service or
19 less may become eligible for annual escalation of the service retirement
20 benefit if [~~he—elects~~] they elect to have the payment of [~~his~~] their
21 benefit commence on the date [~~he~~] they would have completed twenty-two
22 years and one month or more of service. In such event, the service
23 retirement benefit shall equal two percent of final average salary for
24 each year of credited service, less fifty percent of the primary social
25 security retirement benefit commencing at age sixty-two as provided in
26 section five hundred eleven of this article, provided, however, that the
27 service retirement benefit of members of the New York city fire depart-
28 ment pension fund shall not be reduced by the primary social security
29 retirement benefit commencing at age sixty-two as provided by section
30 five hundred eleven of this article.

31 d. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other law,
32 police/fire members of the New York city police pension fund shall be
33 eligible for a normal service retirement benefit in lieu of an early
34 service retirement benefit upon completing twenty years of service
35 pursuant to subdivision d of section five hundred three of this article.

36 § 2. Section 511 of the retirement and social security law is amended
37 by adding a new subdivision h to read as follows:

38 h. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, this section
39 shall not apply to members of the New York city fire department pension
40 fund who receive a service retirement benefit pursuant to section five
41 hundred five of this article or a deferred vested benefit pursuant to
42 section five hundred sixteen of this article.

43 § 3. Subdivision c of section 516 of the retirement and social securi-
44 ty law, as amended by chapter 18 of the laws of 2012, is amended to read
45 as follows:

46 c. The deferred vested benefit of police/fire members, New York city
47 police/fire revised plan members, New York city uniformed
48 correction/sanitation revised plan members or investigator revised plan
49 members shall be a pension commencing at early retirement age equal to
50 two and one-tenths percent of final average salary times years of cred-
51 ited service, less fifty percent of the primary social security retire-
52 ment benefit commencing at age sixty-two, as provided in section five
53 hundred eleven of this article, provided however that the deferred vest-
54 ed benefit of members of the New York city fire department pension fund
55 and revised plan members who are members of the New York city fire
56 department pension fund shall not be reduced by the primary social secu-

1 city retirement benefit commencing at age sixty-two as provided by
 2 section five hundred eleven of this article. A police/fire member, a New
 3 York city police/fire revised plan member, a New York city uniformed
 4 correction/sanitation revised plan member or investigator revised plan
 5 member may elect to receive [~~his~~] their vested benefit commencing at
 6 early retirement age or age fifty-five. If the vested benefit commences
 7 before early retirement age, the benefit shall be reduced by one-fif-
 8 teenth for each year, if any, that the member's early retirement age is
 9 in excess of age sixty, and by one-thirtieth for each additional year by
 10 which the vested benefit commences prior to early retirement age. If
 11 such vested benefit is deferred until after such member's normal retire-
 12 ment age, the benefit shall be computed and subject to annual escalation
 13 in the same manner as provided for an early retirement benefit pursuant
 14 to subdivision c of section five hundred five of this article.

15 § 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 13-379 of the adminis-
 16 trative code of the city of New York, the provisions of this act shall
 17 apply to chapter three of title thirteen of the administrative code of
 18 the city of New York.

19 § 5. Notwithstanding any provision of law, rule, or regulation to the
 20 contrary, any effect on a participating employer's contribution rate due
 21 to the provisions of this act shall not apply to the calculation of such
 22 participating employer's contribution rate for the purposes of subdivi-
 23 sion c of section 500 of the retirement and social security law.

24 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

SUMMARY: This proposed legislation would eliminate the offset equal to
 50% of the primary social security benefit in the service, early
 service, and vested retirement benefits for Tier 3 members of the New
 York City Fire Pension Fund (FIRE).

EXPECTED INCREASE (DECREASE) IN EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS
 by Fiscal Year for the first 25 years (\$ in Millions)

Year	FIRE
2027	11.9
2028	12.5
2029	13.2
2030	14.0
2031	14.8
2032	15.7
2033	16.5
2034	17.4
2035	18.3
2036	19.2
2037	20.2
2038	21.1
2039	22.1
2040	23.1
2041	24.0
2042	25.0
2043	25.9
2044	22.3
2045	23.2
2046	24.0
2047	24.9
2048	25.8

2049	26.6
2050	27.5
2051	28.3

Projected contributions include future new hires that may be impacted. For Fiscal Year 2052 and beyond, the expected increase in normal cost as a level percent of pay for impacted new entrants is approximately 0.84%.

The entire increase in employer contributions will be allocated to New York City.

PRESENT VALUE OF BENEFITS: The Present Value of Benefits is the discounted expected value of benefits paid to current members if all assumptions are met, including future service accrual and pay increases. Future new hires are not included in this present value.

INITIAL INCREASE (DECREASE) IN ACTUARIAL PRESENT VALUES
as of June 30, 2025 (\$ in Millions)

Present Value (PV)	FIRE
(1) PV of Employer Contributions:	156.6
(2) PV of Employee Contributions:	<u>0.0</u>
Total PV of Benefits (1) + (2):	156.6

UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITY (UAL): Actuarial Accrued Liabilities are the portion of the Present Value of Benefits allocated to past service. Changes in UAL for active members were amortized over the expected remaining working lifetime of those impacted using level dollar payments. UAL attributable to inactive members was recognized in the first year.

AMORTIZATION OF UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITY

	FIRE
Increase (Decrease) in UAL:	43.5 M
Number of Payments:	17
Amortization Payment:	4.6 M
Additional One-time Payment:	0.2 M

CENSUS DATA: The estimates presented herein are based on preliminary census data collected as of June 30, 2025. The census data for the impacted population is summarized below.

	FIRE
Active Members	
- Number Count:	6,510
- Average Age:	34.5
- Average Service:	6.4
- Average Salary:	118,200
Term. Vested Members	
- Number Count:	16
- Average Age:	38.3

IMPACT ON MEMBER BENEFITS: Currently, Tier 3 normal service retirement, early service retirement, and vested retirement benefits are subject to an offset equal to 50% of the primary social security benefit

as defined in Retirement and Social Security Law (RSSL) Section 511 beginning at age 62.

Under the proposed legislation, the offset for such benefits would be eliminated for FIRE members, resulting in an increase in benefits.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODS: The estimates presented herein have been calculated based on the Revised 2021 Actuarial Assumptions and Methods of the impacted retirement systems. In addition:

* New entrants were assumed to replace exiting members so that total payroll increases by 3% each year for impacted groups. New entrant demographics were developed based on data for recent new hires and actuarial judgement.

RISK AND UNCERTAINTY: The costs presented in this Fiscal Note depend highly on the actuarial assumptions, methods, and models used, demographics of the impacted population, and other factors such as investment, contribution, and other risks. If actual experience deviates from actuarial assumptions, the actual costs could differ from those presented herein. Quantifying these risks is beyond the scope of this Fiscal Note.

This Fiscal Note is intended to measure pension-related impacts and does not include other potential costs (e.g., administrative and Other Postemployment Benefits). This Fiscal Note does not reflect any chapter laws that may have been enacted during the current legislative session.

This Fiscal Note does not include cost analyses relating to provisions contained in RSSL Section 500(c).

STATEMENT OF ACTUARIAL OPINION: Marek Tyszkiewicz and Gregory Zelikovsky are members of the Society of Actuaries and the American Academy of Actuaries. We are members of NYCERS, but do not believe it impairs our objectivity, and we meet the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the actuarial opinion contained herein. To the best of our knowledge, the results contained herein have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and procedures and with the Actuarial Standards of Practice issued by the Actuarial Standards Board.

FISCAL NOTE IDENTIFICATION: This Fiscal Note 2026-34 dated March 9, 2026 was prepared by the Chief Actuary for the New York City Retirement Systems and Pension Funds and is intended for use only during the 2026 Legislative Session.