

# STATE OF NEW YORK

10108

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 2, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. STECK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Employees

AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, the education law and the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to providing cost-of-living adjustments

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision c of section 78-a of the retirement and social  
2 security law, as added by chapter 125 of the laws of 2000, is amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 c. Said cost-of-living adjustment shall be computed on a base benefit  
5 amount not to exceed eighteen thousand dollars of the annual retirement  
6 allowance defined in subdivision b of this section. Effective on the  
7 first day of September, two thousand twenty-six, said cost-of-living  
8 adjustment shall be computed on a base benefit amount not to exceed  
9 twenty-one thousand dollars of the annual retirement allowance defined  
10 in subdivision b of this section.

11 § 2. Subdivision c of section 378-a of the retirement and social secu-  
12 rity law, as added by chapter 125 of the laws of 2000, is amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 c. Said cost-of-living adjustment shall be computed on a base benefit  
15 amount not to exceed eighteen thousand dollars of the annual retirement  
16 allowance defined in subdivision b of this section. Effective on the  
17 first day of September, two thousand twenty-six, said cost-of-living  
18 adjustment shall be computed on a base benefit amount not to exceed  
19 twenty-one thousand dollars of the annual retirement allowance defined  
20 in subdivision b of this section.

21 § 3. Subdivision c of section 532-a of the education law, as added by  
22 chapter 125 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as follows:

23 c. Said cost-of-living adjustment shall be computed on a base benefit  
24 amount not to exceed eighteen thousand dollars of the annual retirement  
25 allowance defined in subdivision b of this section. Effective on the  
26 first day of September, two thousand twenty-six, said cost-of-living  
27 adjustment shall be computed on a base benefit amount not to exceed

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

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1 twenty-one thousand dollars of the annual retirement allowance defined  
2 in subdivision b of this section.

3 § 4. Subdivision c of section 13-696 of the administrative code of the  
4 city of New York, as added by chapter 125 of the laws of 2000, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 c. Said cost-of-living adjustment shall be computed on a base benefit  
7 amount not to exceed eighteen thousand dollars of the annual fixed  
8 retirement allowance defined in subdivision b of this section. Effec-  
9 tive on the first day of September, two thousand twenty-six, said cost-  
10 of-living adjustment shall be computed on a base benefit amount not to  
11 exceed twenty-one thousand dollars of the annual retirement allowance  
12 defined in subdivision b of this section.

13 § 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

Bill Description: This fiscal note is prepared for legislative bill  
draft #01112-01-5. This bill would amend subdivision c of Section 532-a  
of the Retirement and Social Security Law to apply the cost-of-living  
adjustment (COLA) percentage to a base benefit amount not to exceed  
\$21,000 of annual retirement benefit. The current cap on the annual base  
benefit amount for COLA purposes is \$18,000. This benefit improvement  
would be effective September 1, 2026.

Cost: The annual cost to the participating employers of the New York  
State Teachers' Retirement System is estimated to be \$94.7 million or  
0.46% of payroll if this bill is enacted.

Data: Member data as of June 30, 2025, prepared for the most recent  
actuarial valuation was used in determining this cost. The most recent  
data distributions and statistics can be found in the System's Annual  
Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. System assets are as  
reported in the System's financial statements which can be found in the  
System's Annual Report. This data will also be presented in the System's  
Actuarial Valuation Report as of June 30, 2025.

Methods and Assumptions: A summary of actuarial assumptions and meth-  
ods will be provided in the System's Actuarial Valuation Report as of  
June 30, 2025. Further details can be found in the most recent Recom-  
mended Actuarial Assumptions 2025 Report.

Actuarial Certification: We, the undersigned actuaries for the New  
York State Teachers' Retirement System, certify the following:

1. The actuarial assumptions, methods, and data used are reasonable  
for the purposes of this fiscal note, internally consistent and are in  
accordance with standards of practice prescribed by the Actuarial Stand-  
ards Board and generally accepted actuarial principles and procedures.

2. We relied on member data supplied by the participating employers of  
the New York State Teachers' Retirement System and assets as supplied in  
the annual Financial Statements by NYSTRS' Finance Department.

3. Results were prepared based on our current understanding of the  
proposal as of the date of this fiscal note. If the language or our  
understanding of the proposal changes, the results could change and  
require the issuance of a new fiscal note. The next annual update of  
the actuarial valuation could also produce different results. Results  
should not be relied upon for any other purpose.

4. This fiscal note was prepared in accordance with New York State  
Retirement and Social Security Law, New York State Education Law, appli-  
cable Internal Revenue Code, and accepted actuarial standards of prac-  
tice as of the date of this fiscal note. This fiscal note does not  
constitute a legal opinion on the viability of this legislative  
proposal.

5. We are members of the American Academy of Actuaries and the Society of Actuaries, and we meet the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the actuarial opinion contained herein. We are currently compliant with the Continuing Professional Development Requirement of the Society of Actuaries.

Melody Prangle Heather Marks

Thomas M. King

Chief Actuary Director - Actuarial Valuation Director - Actuarial Risk

Fiscal Note Identification: This Fiscal Note, 2026-2, dated January 29, 2026, was prepared by the Office of the Actuary of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System and is intended for use only during the 2026 Legislative Session.