

STATE OF NEW YORK

9162--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

October 17, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. PHEFFER AMATO, SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Employees -- recommitted to the Committee on Governmental Employees in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- 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 the retirement of state, county and municipal 911 operators and dispatchers

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 89-z to read as follows:

3 § 89-z. Optional twenty-five year retirement plan for certain public
4 safety dispatchers, public safety telecommunicators, 911 operators,
5 communications officers, police communication technicians, emergency
6 services operators and emergency services dispatchers employed by the
7 state, or a county or municipal emergency services department. a. A
8 member employed by the state, a county or a municipality shall be eligi-
9 ble to retire pursuant to the provisions of this section if such
10 member's employer elects to make the benefits authorized by this section
11 available as provided in subdivision j of this section, and if such
12 member is a public safety dispatcher, public safety telecommunicator,
13 911 operator, communications officers, or any similar title that is
14 responsible for receiving and managing emergency calls, and dispatching
15 appropriate emergency services, including but not limited to, law
16 enforcement, fire, and medical assistance employed by the state, or a
17 county or municipality. Such eligibility shall be an alternative to the
18 eligibility provisions available under any other plan of this article to
19 which such member is subject. The comptroller shall have the authority
20 to include positions within the provisions of this section that compre-
21 hend the same duties and responsibilities, but are named differently.

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

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1 b. Such member shall be entitled to retire upon the completion of
2 twenty-five years of total creditable service by filing an application
3 therefor in the manner provided for in section seventy of this article.

4 c. Upon completion of twenty-five years of such service and upon
5 retirement, each such member shall receive a pension which, together
6 with an annuity which shall be the actuarial equivalent of such member's
7 accumulated contributions at the time of such member's retirement and an
8 additional pension which is the actuarial equivalent of the reserved-
9 for-increased-take-home-pay to which such member may then be entitled
10 shall be sufficient to provide such member with a retirement allowance
11 equal to one-half of such member's final average salary.

12 d. As used in this section, "creditable service" shall include any and
13 all services performed as a public safety dispatcher, public safety
14 telecommunicator, 911 operator, communications officers, police communi-
15 cation technician, emergency services operator, emergency services
16 dispatcher, or any similar title, employed by the state, or a county or
17 municipal emergency services department who is responsible for receiving
18 and managing emergency calls, and dispatching appropriate emergency
19 services, including but not limited to, law enforcement, fire, and
20 medical assistance.

21 e. Credit for service as a member or officer of the state police or as
22 a paid firefighter, police officer or officer of any organized fire
23 department or police force or department of any county, city, village,
24 town, fire district or police district, or as a criminal investigator in
25 the office of a district attorney, shall also be deemed to be creditable
26 service and shall be included in computing years of total service for
27 retirement pursuant to this section.

28 f. The officer of the state, or chief executive officer of a county or
29 municipality that makes the election provided for in subdivision j of
30 this section shall certify to the comptroller, periodically and at such
31 intervals of time as may be required of them and in such fashion as may
32 be prescribed, the identity of members in eligible titles as defined in
33 subdivisions a and d of this section.

34 g. A member contributing on the basis of this section at the time of
35 retirement may retire after the completion of twenty-five years of total
36 creditable service. Application therefor may be filed in a manner simi-
37 lar to that provided in section seventy of this article. Upon completion
38 of twenty-five years of such service and upon retirement, each such
39 member shall receive a pension which, together with an annuity which
40 shall be the actuarial equivalent of such member's accumulated contrib-
41 utions at the time of such member's retirement and an additional pension
42 which is the actuarial equivalent of the reserved-for-increased-take-
43 home-pay to which such member may be entitled shall be sufficient to
44 provide such member with a retirement allowance equal to one-half of
45 such member's final average salary. For service beyond twenty-five
46 years, the benefit shall be increased by one-sixtieth of final average
47 salary for each year of additional service credit provided, however, the
48 total allowance payable pursuant to this section shall not exceed three-
49 fourths of such member's final average salary.

50 h. In computing the twenty-five years of total service of a member
51 pursuant to this section, full credit shall be given and full allowance
52 shall be made for service of such member in time of war after World War
53 I as defined in section two of this chapter, provided such member at the
54 time of such member's entrance into the armed forces was in the service
55 of the county of such member's employer that makes the election provided
56 for in this section.

1 i. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a member, who
2 does not retire pursuant to the provisions of this section, from utiliz-
3 ing service which is creditable service pursuant to the provisions of
4 this section for service credit pursuant to the provisions of any other
5 plan of this article to which such member is subject.

6 j. (1) Each employer that elects pursuant to the provisions of this
7 subdivision shall pay the cost attributable therefor.

8 (2) The benefits of this section shall be available only to those
9 members as defined in subdivisions a and d of this section whose employ-
10 er elects to provide such benefits by adopting a resolution to such
11 effect and filing a certified copy thereof with the comptroller. Such
12 resolution may also contain an election that any past services cost be
13 paid over either a five-year or ten-year period. Such resolution shall
14 be accompanied by the affidavit of the officer of the state making an
15 election pursuant to this subdivision or the chief executive officer of
16 the county or municipality that the state, county or municipality has
17 received an estimate from the retirement system of the cost of the bene-
18 fit provided by this section.

19 (3) Such resolution shall apply to all members defined in subdivisions
20 a and d of this section, except those already subject to a retirement
21 plan which permits immediate retirement with a benefit upon a specified
22 period of service of twenty-five years or less without regard to age.

23 k. The provisions of this section shall be controlling notwithstanding
24 any other provisions in this article to the contrary.

25 § 2. Subdivision a of section 445 of the retirement and social securi-
26 ty law, as amended by section 2 of part TT of chapter 55 of the laws of
27 2025, is amended to read as follows:

28 a. No member of a retirement system who is subject to the provisions
29 of this article shall retire without regard to age, exclusive of retire-
30 ment for disability, unless they are a police officer, an investigator
31 member of the New York city employees' retirement system, firefighter,
32 correction officer, a qualifying member as defined in section eighty-
33 nine-t, as added by chapter six hundred fifty-seven of the laws of nine-
34 teen hundred ninety-eight, of this chapter, sanitation worker, a special
35 officer (including persons employed by the city of New York in the title
36 urban park ranger or associate urban park ranger), school safety agent,
37 campus peace officer or a taxi and limousine commission inspector member
38 of the New York city employees' retirement system or the New York city
39 board of education retirement system, a dispatcher member of the New
40 York city employees' retirement system, a police communications member
41 of the New York city employees' retirement system, an EMT member of the
42 New York city employees' retirement system, a deputy sheriff member of
43 the New York city employees' retirement system, a correction officer of
44 the Westchester county correction department as defined in section
45 eighty-nine-e of this chapter or employed in Suffolk county as a peace
46 officer, as defined in section eighty-nine-s, as added by chapter five
47 hundred eighty-eight of the laws of nineteen hundred ninety-seven, of
48 this chapter, employed in Suffolk county as a correction officer, as
49 defined in section eighty-nine-f of this chapter, or employed in Nassau
50 county as a correction officer, uniformed correction division personnel,
51 sheriff, undersheriff or deputy sheriff, as defined in section eighty-
52 nine-g of this chapter, or employed in Nassau county as an ambulance
53 medical technician, an ambulance medical technician/supervisor or a
54 member who performs ambulance medical technician related services, or a
55 police medic, police medic supervisor or a member who performs police
56 medic related services, as defined in section eighty-nine-s, as amended

1 by chapter five hundred seventy-eight of the laws of nineteen hundred
2 ninety-eight, of this chapter, or employed in Nassau county as a peace
3 officer, as defined in section eighty-nine-s, as added by chapter five
4 hundred ninety-five of the laws of nineteen hundred ninety-seven, of
5 this chapter, or employed in Albany county as a sheriff, undersheriff,
6 deputy sheriff, correction officer or identification officer, as defined
7 in section eighty-nine-h of this chapter or is employed in St. Lawrence
8 county as a sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff or correction officer,
9 as defined in section eighty-nine-i of this chapter or is employed in
10 Orleans county as a sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff or correction
11 officer, as defined in section eighty-nine-l of this chapter or is
12 employed in Jefferson county as a sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff
13 or correction officer, as defined in section eighty-nine-j of this chap-
14 ter or is employed in Onondaga county as a deputy sheriff-jail division
15 competitively appointed or as a correction officer, as defined in
16 section eighty-nine-k of this chapter or is employed in a county which
17 makes an election under subdivision j of section eighty-nine-p of this
18 chapter as a sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff or correction officer
19 as defined in such section eighty-nine-p or is employed in Broome County
20 as a sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff or correction officer, as
21 defined in section eighty-nine-m of this chapter or is a Monroe county
22 deputy sheriff-court security, or deputy sheriff-jailor as defined in
23 section eighty-nine-n, as added by chapter five hundred ninety-seven of
24 the laws of nineteen hundred ninety-one, of this chapter or is employed
25 in Greene county as a sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff or
26 correction officer, as defined in section eighty-nine-o of this chapter
27 or is a traffic officer with the town of Elmira as defined in section
28 eighty-nine-q of this chapter or is employed by Suffolk county as a park
29 police officer, as defined in section eighty-nine-r of this chapter or
30 is a peace officer employed by a county probation department as defined
31 in section eighty-nine-t, as added by chapter six hundred three of the
32 laws of nineteen hundred ninety-eight, of this chapter or is employed in
33 Rockland county as a deputy sheriff-civil as defined in section eighty-
34 nine-v of this chapter as added by chapter four hundred forty-one of the
35 laws of two thousand one, or is employed in Rockland county as a superi-
36 or correction officer as defined in section eighty-nine-v of this chap-
37 ter as added by chapter five hundred fifty-six of the laws of two thou-
38 sand one or is a paramedic employed by the police department in the town
39 of Tonawanda and retires under the provisions of section eighty-nine-v
40 of this chapter, as added by chapter four hundred seventy-two of the
41 laws of two thousand one, or is a county fire marshal, supervising fire
42 marshal, fire marshal, assistant fire marshal, assistant chief fire
43 marshal, chief fire marshal, division supervising fire marshal or fire
44 marshal trainee employed by the county of Nassau as defined in section
45 eighty-nine-w of this chapter or is employed in Monroe county as a depu-
46 ty sheriff-civil as defined in section eighty-nine-x of this chapter,
47 employed as an emergency medical technician, critical care technician,
48 advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic or supervisor of such
49 titles in a participating Suffolk county fire district as defined in
50 section eighty-nine-ss of this chapter, or is a firefighter apprentice,
51 airport firefighter I, airport firefighter II, airport firefighter III,
52 or training and safety officer employed by the division of military and
53 naval affairs as defined in section eighty-nine-y of this chapter, or is
54 employed as a public safety dispatcher, public safety telecommunicator,
55 911 operator, communications officers, police communication technician,
56 emergency services operator, emergency services dispatcher, or any simi-

1 lar title, employed by the state, or a county or municipal emergency
2 services department who is responsible for receiving and managing emer-
3 gency calls, and dispatching appropriate emergency services, including
4 but not limited to, law enforcement, fire, and medical assistance as
5 defined in section eighty-nine-z of this chapter, and is in a plan which
6 permits immediate retirement upon completion of a specified period of
7 service without regard to age. Except as provided in subdivision c of
8 section four hundred forty-five-a of this article, subdivision c of
9 section four hundred forty-five-b of this article, subdivision c of
10 section four hundred forty-five-c of this article, subdivision c of
11 section four hundred forty-five-d of this article, subdivision c of
12 section four hundred forty-five-e of this article, subdivision c of
13 section four hundred forty-five-f of this article and subdivision c of
14 section four hundred forty-five-h of this article, a member in such a
15 plan and such an occupation, other than a police officer or investigator
16 member of the New York city employees' retirement system or a firefight-
17 er, shall not be permitted to retire prior to the completion of twenty-
18 five years of credited service; provided, however, if such a member in
19 such an occupation is in a plan which permits retirement upon completion
20 of twenty years of service regardless of age, they may retire upon
21 completion of twenty years of credited service and prior to the
22 completion of twenty-five years of service, but in such event the bene-
23 fit provided from funds other than those based on such a member's own
24 contributions shall not exceed two per centum of final average salary
25 per each year of credited service.

26 § 3. Section 603 of the retirement and social security law is amended
27 by adding a new subdivision x to read as follows:

28 x. The service retirement benefit specified in section six hundred
29 four, six hundred four-c, as added by chapter ninety-six of the laws of
30 nineteen hundred ninety-five, or six hundred four-d of this article
31 shall be payable to members with twenty-five or more years of creditable
32 service, without regard to age, who are employed as public safety
33 dispatcher, public safety telecommunicator, 911 operator, communications
34 officers, police communication technician, emergency services operator,
35 emergency services dispatcher, or any similar title, employed by the
36 state, or a county or municipal emergency services department who is
37 responsible for receiving and managing emergency calls, and dispatching
38 appropriate emergency services, including but not limited to, law
39 enforcement, fire, and medical assistance as defined in section eighty-
40 nine-z of this chapter if: (i) such members have met the minimum service
41 requirements upon retirement, and (ii) in the case of a member subject
42 to the provisions of article fourteen of this chapter, such member files
43 an election therefor which provides that such member will be subject to
44 the provisions of this article and to none of the provisions of such
45 article fourteen. Such election, which is irrevocable, shall be in writ-
46 ing, duly executed and shall be filed with the comptroller within one
47 year of an election such member's employer makes or within one year
48 after entering the employment with such county, municipality or employer
49 upon which eligibility is based, whichever comes later. For the purposes
50 of this subdivision, the term "creditable service" shall have the mean-
51 ing as defined in sections eighty-nine-z and six hundred one of this
52 chapter.

53 § 4. Section 604 of the retirement and social security law is amended
54 by adding a new subdivision x to read as follows:

55 x. The early service retirement for a member who is employed by the
56 state, or in a county, municipality or employer that makes the election

1 provided for in subdivision j of section eighty-nine-z of this chapter
2 as a public safety dispatcher, public safety telecommunicator, 911 oper-
3 ator, communications officers, police communication technician, emergen-
4 cy services operator, emergency services dispatcher, or any similar
5 title, employed by the state, or a county or municipal emergency
6 services department who is responsible for receiving and managing emer-
7 gency calls, and dispatching appropriate emergency services, including
8 but not limited to, law enforcement, fire, and medical assistance, as
9 defined in section eighty-nine-z of this chapter shall be a pension
10 equal to one-fiftieth of final average salary times years of credited
11 service at the completion of twenty-five years of service, but not
12 exceeding one-half of such member's final average salary. For service
13 beyond twenty-five years, the benefits shall increase by one-sixtieth of
14 final average salary for each year of additional service credit
15 provided, however, that the total allowance payable pursuant to this
16 section shall not exceed three-fourths of such member's final average
17 salary.

18 § 5. All past service costs incurred with implementing the provisions
19 of this act shall be borne by any employer that elects to provide the
20 benefits provided by this act.

21 § 6. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
22 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.

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

This bill would allow the state, counties, and municipal emergency services departments to provide members employed in a title that is responsible for receiving and managing emergency calls and dispatching appropriate emergency services, the option to retire with twenty-five years of service credit. The benefit would be one-half of final average salary (FAS) plus one-sixtieth of FAS for each additional year of creditable service, not to exceed three-fourths (75%) of FAS. Additionally, members covered under Article 14 would be permitted one year to make an irrevocable election to switch to the twenty-five-year plan benefit.

We estimate that the annual contribution required of an electing employer will increase by 7% of the salary paid to the affected members. Annual costs will vary as the billing rates and salary of the affected members change.

In addition, there will be a past service cost borne by each electing employer. This cost will vary by employer but is expected to average approximately 30% of the salary paid to the affected members. This past service cost can be borne as a one-time payment or paid over a five-year or ten-year period.

Further, we anticipate additional administrative costs to implement the provisions of this legislation.

The exact number of current members as well as future members who could be affected by this legislation cannot be readily determined. Prior to electing to provide these benefits, an employer would be required to submit a roster of eligible members to the New York State and Local Retirement System. This roster would be used to determine an exact cost to the individual employer electing to provide these benefits.

Summary of relevant resources:

Membership data as of March 31, 2025 was used to measure the impact of the bill, the same data used in the Actuarial Valuations dated April 1, 2025. Distributions and other statistics can be found in the 2025 Report of the Actuary and the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The actuarial assumptions and methods used are described in the 2025 Annual

Report to the Comptroller on Actuarial Assumptions, and the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York: Audit and Control. The fair value of assets and GASB disclosures can be found in the 2025 Financial Statements and Supplementary Information.

Assumptions, demographics, and other considerations may have been modified to better reflect specific provisions of any proposed benefit change(s).

This fiscal note does not constitute a legal opinion on the viability of the bill, nor is it intended to serve as a substitute for the professional judgment of an attorney.

This estimate, dated February 11, 2026, and intended for use only during the 2026 Legislative Session, is Fiscal Note Number 2026-40. As Chief Actuary of the New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS), I, Aaron Schottin Young, hereby certify that this analysis complies with applicable Actuarial Standards of Practice as well as the Code of Professional Conduct and Qualification Standards for Actuaries Issuing Statements of Actuarial Opinion of the American Academy of Actuaries, of which I am a member. I am a member of NYSLRS but do not believe it impairs my objectivity.