

STATE OF NEW YORK

6554--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 17, 2025

Introduced by Sen. JACKSON -- 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 general municipal law, in relation to benefits for employees of governmental entities performing emergency medical services in the city of New York who suffer any condition or impairment of health caused by a stroke resulting in disability or death

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

1 Section 1. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new
2 section 207-qq to read as follows:

3 § 207-qq. Disabilities of emergency medical technicians or advanced
4 emergency medical technicians in certain cities resulting from stroke.
5 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general, special or local law or
6 administrative code to the contrary, but except for the purposes of the
7 workers' compensation law and the labor law, any condition of impairment
8 of health caused by a stroke resulting in total or partial disability or
9 death to a paid employee of a fire department who performs the functions
10 of an emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical techni-
11 cian in a city with a population of one million or more, where such
12 employee is drawn from competitive civil service lists, who successfully
13 passed a physical examination on entry into the service of such depart-
14 ment, which examination failed to reveal any evidence of such condition,
15 shall be presumptive evidence that it was incurred in the performance of
16 duty, unless the contrary be proved by competent evidence.

17 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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

LBD00094-03-6

SUMMARY: This proposed legislation would provide Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) members of the New York City Employees' Retirement System (NYCERS) a rebuttable statutory presumption that a qualifying partial or total disability or death related to the occurrence of a stroke was incurred in the performance of duty.

ILLUSTRATION - INCREASE (DECREASE) IN EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS
by Fiscal Year for the first 25 years (\$ in Thousands)

Year	One Incident		One Incident Per Year	
	Disability	Death	Disability	Death
2027	54	158	54	158
2028	54	158	109	321
2029	54	158	166	488
2030	54	158	225	661
2031	54	158	285	839
2032	54	158	348	1,022
2033	54	158	412	1,210
2034	54	158	478	1,405
2035	54	158	546	1,605
2036	54	158	616	1,811
2037	54	158	689	2,023
2038	54	158	763	2,242
2039	54	158	840	2,467
2040	54	158	919	2,699
2041	0	0	946	2,780
2042	0	0	975	2,864
2043	0	0	1,004	2,949
2044	0	0	1,034	3,038
2045	0	0	1,065	3,129
2046	0	0	1,097	3,223
2047	0	0	1,130	3,320
2048	0	0	1,164	3,419
2049	0	0	1,199	3,522
2050	0	0	1,235	3,628
2051	0	0	1,272	3,736

Employer contribution impact beyond Fiscal Year 2051 is not shown.

The potential increases 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 Thousands)

Present Value (PV)	Per Disability	Per Death
(1) PV of Employer Contributions:	455	1,336
(2) PV of Employee Contributions:	<u>(41)</u>	<u>0</u>
Total PV of Benefits (1) + (2):	414	1,336

UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITY (UAL): Actuarial Accrued Liabilities are the portion of the Present Value of Benefits allocated to past service. Changes in UAL per incident would be recognized as ongoing gain/loss.

AMORTIZATION OF UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITY

Recognized as Ongoing Gain/Loss	Per Disability	Per Death
Increase (Decrease) in UAL:	455 K	1,336 K
Number of Payments:	14	14
Amortization Payment:	54 K	158 K

CENSUS DATA: The number of members who will benefit in the future from this proposed legislation is unknown. The estimates presented herein are based on preliminary census data collected as of June 30, 2025. The census data for the potentially impacted population used to develop the average costs is summarized below.

	NYCERS
Active Members	
- Number Count:	4,038
- Average Age:	37.1
- Average Service:	9.8
- Average Salary:	77,100

IMPACT ON MEMBER BENEFITS: Currently, NYCERS EMT members who become disabled due to a stroke would generally be eligible for an applicable ordinary disability retirement benefit after attaining 10 years of service. The disability benefit is generally a lifetime payment equal to the greatest of 1/3 of Final Average Salary (FAS), 1/60th of FAS times service, or the service retirement benefit, if eligible.

Under the proposed legislation, the performance of duty disability benefit for NYCERS EMT members who are disabled from a stroke would be equal to 75% of FAS.

The ordinary death benefit for NYCERS EMT members is a lump sum payment generally equal to three times the member's salary plus a return of member contributions. Under the proposed legislation, the performance of duty death benefit would generally be equal to a lifetime benefit of 50% of a member's wages earned during their last year of service, plus, if applicable, the Special Accidental Death Benefit (SADB) payable under General Municipal Law section 208-f.

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

The number of members who will benefit from the proposed legislation is unknown. The cost of this proposed legislation could vary greatly depending on the number of future members who benefit and on their length of service, age, and salary history. In particular, the increase would be greater for a member who is not yet eligible for an ordinary disability benefit when disabled.

The estimated financial impact for disabled members has been calculated assuming 50% would have retired under the current ordinary disability benefit, and 50% would have continued working if the proposed legislation were not passed.

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.

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 2026-40 dated March 13, 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.