

VETO MESSAGE - No. 185

TO THE ASSEMBLY:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

Assembly Bill Number 1644, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to compensation and medical expenses of certain injured state employees"

TO THE SENATE:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bills:

Senate Bill Number 2516, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to optional disability coverage for county probation officers"

Senate Bill Number 4077-A, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to death benefits for certain members; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof"

Senate Bill Number 5360, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the civil service law, in relation to independent hearing officers for certain disciplinary hearings"

NOT APPROVED

These bills would expand employment rights and benefits for State and local employees.

I fully support the valuable contributions that State and local workers provide to New Yorkers, including those workers that perform important public safety responsibilities. However, it is well-established that these types of benefits are typically bargained pursuant to the Taylor Law (Art. 14 of the Civil Service Law), and not unilaterally imposed through legislation.

Consistent with past practice, the benefits provided by these bills should therefore be negotiated through the chosen representatives of the employer and employees. This will allow these types of benefits to be evaluated as part of the larger package of benefits and compensation provided to State and local employees, rather than in a piecemeal fashion that prioritizes certain benefits over others.

Second, it is estimated that these bills, when combined, would impose nearly \$38 million in costs unaccounted for in the State's financial plan. This would impose an unnecessary and unplanned burden on the State's taxpayers. For these reasons, I am constrained to veto these bills.

These bills are disapproved.

(signed) ANDREW M. CUOMO