

VETO MESSAGE - No. 181

TO THE ASSEMBLY:

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

Assembly Bill Number 5194, entitled:

"AN ACT granting retroactive tier IV membership in the New York state and local employees' retirement system to Scott Goodfellow"

Assembly Bill Number 5927, entitled:

"AN ACT granting retroactive membership in the New York state and local employees' retirement system to Adam Markel"

Assembly Bill Number 7193-C, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to providing for the automatic enrollment for employees whose right to membership has been made optional by the head of the public retirement system involved"

Assembly Bill Number 7642, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law and chapter 511 of the laws of 1988 amending the retirement and social security law relating to a reduction in retirement age for certain members, in relation to a reduced retirement age for certain Triborough bridge and tunnel authority employees"

TO THE SENATE:

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

Senate Bill Number 3670, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to eligibility for retirement benefits for certain members of the unified court system"

Senate Bill Number 3671, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to accidental disability retirement for uniformed court officers and peace officers employed in the unified court system"

Senate Bill Number 4324, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to providing notice of health insurance contracts for retired officers, employees, and their families"

Senate Bill Number 5130, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to disability retirement benefits for sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, undersheriffs, and correction officers in Nassau county"

Senate Bill Number 5704, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to providing performance of duty disability retirement benefits for ambulance medical technician supervisors, ambulance medical technician coordinators and ambulance medical technicians in Nassau county"

Senate Bill Number 5705, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to providing accidental disability retirement benefits for chief fire marshals, assistant chief fire marshals, division supervising fire marshals, supervising fire marshals, fire marshals and fire marshal trainees in Nassau county"

Senate Bill Number 6448-A, entitled:

"AN ACT granting retroactive membership with tier IV status in the New York state and local employees' retirement system to Jessica Strizzi"

Senate Bill Number 6449, entitled:

"AN ACT granting retroactive Tier IV membership in the New York state and local employees' retirement system to Brian Stebbins"

NOT APPROVED

These bills would provide State and local public employees with a variety of enhanced retirement benefits without offering any funding sources to cover their costs in the current fiscal year or in future years.

I have vetoed similar or identical bills in each of the past several years because the costs imposed were not accounted for in the State's financial plan. In order to provide all of the benefits associated with these bills, the State and its localities would be required to pay a combined, estimated total of \$53 million in near-term costs. As the Legislature has failed to appropriate any funds to pay for these benefits, I cannot support a package of bills that would necessarily impose a substantial and unplanned burden on New York State taxpayers.

Moreover, these costs will also place an undue fiscal pressure on local governments to provide vital services to their residents. Fixed costs associated with pension enhancements hinder the ability of local governments to function within current property tax levels and negatively impact the State's economic competitiveness.

As such costs must be addressed in the context of the annual budget negotiations, I am therefore constrained to veto these bills.

These bills are disapproved.

(signed) ANDREW M. CUOMO
