

IMPORTANT BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF PEF MEMBERS:

Employer Sanction for Violation of Mandatory Overtime (S.1997-A Jackson/A.286-A Gunther) This bill authorizes a civil penalty against employers of neither less than \$1,000 nor more than \$3,000 per violation of the “no mandatory overtime” law for nurses and provides that employees shall receive an additional 15% of the overtime payment from the employer for each violation as damages.

Limits Emergency Exemptions for Nurse Mandatory Overtime Law (S.8063 Ramos/A.8874 Joyner) This bill would place limits on the use of emergency exemptions to avoid “mandatory overtime” for nurses—3 days for natural disasters and 30 days for a declared emergency.

Cost/Benefit Analysis (S.5356 Breslin/A.8159 Bronson) This legislation requires state agencies to conduct a cost-benefit analysis prior to contracting out for services on contracts of \$1 million or more per year.

3/4 FAS Disability for Fire Protection Specialists (S.1889-C Skoufis/A.4084-C Abbate) This bill grants Fire Protection Specialists who are injured in the course of their duties a disability benefit that is within $\frac{3}{4}$ of their final average salary (FAS), a benefit that is currently afforded to other emergency services providers.

Stony Brook Nurses ORP (S.8959 Savinoo/A.4460-A Abbate) This legislation would allow certain nurses employed by SUNY Stony Brook Hospital the option to transfer retirement system membership from the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) to NYSLERS. The past service cost would be the responsibility of members who elect to transfer.

COVID Vaccination Extender (S.8529 Gounardes/A.9513 Fall) This bill would extend provisions of the law granting public employees four hours of excused leave to receive the coronavirus vaccine until December 31, 2023.

Annual Leave for Blood Donation (S.907-A Sanders/A.1871 Dinowitz) This legislation permits state employees to be excused from work without loss of compensation for up to four hours annually to donate blood and permits supervisors to require proof of such donation.

Injunctive Relief – Permanent (S.8282 Jackson/A.9372 Abbate) This bill makes permanent the provisions of the civil service law to allow a public employee to petition before the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) and receive injunctive relief for an improper practice charge.

WTC Workers' Comp Filing Extension (S.9294-A Gounardes/A.10416 Niou) This bill would extend the period for filing a workers' compensation claim relating to World Trade Center rescue, recovery, and clean-up operations to Sept. 11, 2026.

WTC Presumption Verification (S.9370 Jackson/A.9922-A Abbate) This bill provides that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention World Trade Center Health Program Certification shall be deemed to be presumptive medical evidence of a causation of a qualifying condition relating to WTC rescue, recovery and clean-up operations.

Ensures Identical Skilled Nursing Care for Public Retirees (S.8192 Breslin/A.9215 McDonald) This legislation will ensure that public retirees maintain the same skilled nursing care benefits under the state health benefit plan even after they enroll in Medicare.

Allow Extrinsic Evidence for Retiree Health (S.9347 Jackson/A.10425 Abbate) This bill would allow extrinsic evidence to be admitted by the court for determining whether the parties to a contract intended for the retiree to have health insurance vest beyond the time limits of a collective bargaining agreement.

Death Benefit Penalty Adjustment (S.6619-A Gounardes/A.7730 Abbate) This legislation would increase the age at which penalties are incurred for ordinary death benefits for members to avoid the 4% penalty (hired before 4/1/2012 = age 62; hired after 4/1/2012 = age 63).

COVID Death Benefit Extender (S.9119 Gounardes/A.10022 Abbate) This bill would extend the application deadline to file for accidental death benefits for statutory beneficiaries of public employees who worked on or after March 1, 2020, contracted COVID-19, and died of COVID-19 on or before December 31, 2024.

I/DD Hotline (S.6274-B Mannion/A.7357-A Abinanti) This bill would establish a pilot program to create a non-emergency assistance hotline for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and complex behavioral needs.

OPWDD Staffing Report (S.9086 Mannion/A.10483 Anderson) This legislation would require the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to report the number and nature of state-operated residential facilities serving individuals with developmental disabilities; a census of staff delivering services at state-operated facilities; the status of hiring new staff at state-operated residential facilities; and requiring such report be made public by December 31, 2022.

OPWDD Notification Extender (S.7617 Mannion/A.9038 Abinanti) This bill would extend for two years the requirement for the OPWDD to notify the Senate, Assembly and labor unions of any closure or transfer of a state-operated individualized residential alternative (IRAs).

Workers' Comp Claims for Mental Injuries from Work-Related Stress (S.6373-B Savino/A.2020-A Reyes) This bill would allow all workers to make Workers' Compensation claims for mental injury premised upon extraordinary work-related stress incurred at work.

Salary Protection for Part Time/Provisional Employees (S.8210 Jackson/A.4080 Abbate) This bill would grant salary protection to provisional and temporary incumbents and provide salary protection to permanent incumbents who take a lateral transfer.

Hospital Equity and Affordability Legislation (HEAL) (S.7199 Gouardes/A.8169-A Cruz) This bill would prohibit certain provisions in health plan contract,s including most-favored-nation provisions and restrictions on disclosure of actual claim costs, prices or quality in certain situations.

Posting State Employment Opportunities (S.7662-A Hoylman/A.8599-A Epstein) This legislation would require open positions, examination announcements and application instructions to be posted on the Civil Service website.

Military Service Credit for LGBT Members (S.6022-B Hoylman/A.5278 Barrett) This bill would add veterans who have qualifying conditions or who are discharged as LGBT veterans to obtain public retirement service credit ("veterans' buyback") in the same manner as veterans who have been honorably discharged or released from military service.