

A. 9037 (Abbate)

SMOOTHING METHOD FOR NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS: This bill would amend the NYS Retirement and Social Security Law as it pertains to employer bills of the NYS and Local Employees Retirement System (ERS) and New York State and Local Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS).

This bill puts in place a 6 year program that allows ERS and PFRS employers, if they choose to participate, to amortize a portion of their retirement bill when employer contribution levels rise above a certain level. In ERS, those levels are: 9.5% for 2010/11 bills; 10.5% for 2011/12 bills; 11.5% for 2012/13 bills; 12.5% for 2013/14 bills; 13.5% for 2014/15 bills; and 14.5% for 2015/16 bills. In PFRS, those levels are: 17.5% for 2010/11 bills; 18.5% for 2011/12 bills; 19.5% for 2012/13 bills; 20.5% for 2013/14 bills; 21.5% for 2014/15 bills; and 22.5% for 2015/16 bills. The amortization is over a period of 10 years at a rate of interest determined by the Comptroller with the first of the 10 annual payments payable one year following the respective billing date.

Also, this bill increases the current minimum contribution to the System from 4.5% of payroll to 5.5% of payroll for all future years. **(Assembly Governmental Employees Committee)**

A. 8565-A (Hoyt)
(Comptroller's Bill)

LOCAL FINANCE LAW AMENDMENTS: This bill, introduced at the request of the State Comptroller, would enact the following: 1) extend the "roll over" period on Bond Anticipation Notes (BANS) issued in 2004 and 2005 from 5 to 7 years; 2) increase the \$1 million cap on negotiated bond sales; 3) decreases the amount of time before which a local government can cancel a bond sale from one day to one hour so as to better assess current market conditions prior to a bond sale; 4) permit bidders on municipal bonds in a competitive bond sale to provide cash as a "good faith effort" instead of a cashiers or certified check; 5) expand the ability of local governments to issue Budget Notes for instances where an unforeseen revenue shortfall occurs. **(Assembly Ways and Means Committee)**

A. 2731 (Sweeney)
S. 4660 (Foley)

MANDATORY WRITTEN RESPONSES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITS: This bill would expressly mandate (rather than authorize as current stated in Section 35 of the NYS General Municipal Law) that local governments, industrial development agencies, school districts and other agencies respond to audits by the Office of the State Comptroller and external independent accountants in writing within 90 days after presentation of the report or management letter to the governing board. These reports would need to be submitted to the State Comptroller (school districts would need to also file the report with the Commissioner of Education and IDAs with the Department of Economic Development). **(Assembly Third Reading/Senate Local Government Committee)**

A. 8215 (Destito)
S. 5111 (Breslin)

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AND AMBULANCE WORKER HEALTH PROGRAM AMENDMENTS:

This bill makes clarifying amendments to Chapter 331 of the Laws of 2008 which permits volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to apply for municipal health insurance benefits at their own cost. The amendments in this bill clarify that: 1) the program is authorized **BUT NOT MANDATED** upon local governments in New York State which are served by volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers; and 2) Authorizes municipalities which utilize NYSHIP (New York State Health Insurance Program) to include volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. **(Assembly Insurance Committee/Passed Senate)**

A. 7242-A (Hoyt)
S. 3664-A (Stachowski)

PROHIBITION ON STATE PUBLIC AUTHORITY RAISES: Employees of State Public Authorities not under a collective bargaining agreement would be prohibited from receiving bonuses in addition to their salary and benefits. **(Assembly Third Reading/Senate Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee)**

A. 2378-A (Schimminger)
S. 1716-A (Stachowski)

AMENDMENTS TO TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF): The purpose of this bill is to include a school district's real estate taxes in the allocation of taxes available to pay bonds authorized and issued under the Municipal Redevelopment Law (MRL) for economic development in blighted areas. **(Assembly Local Government Committee/Senate Third Reading)**

A. 9099 (Hoyt)

FDIC COVERAGE FOR MUNICIPAL CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT: This legislation would permit bank and trust companies authorized to do business in New York with municipal entities to participate in a reciprocal program with other banks throughout the country to ensure that certificates of deposit over the FDIC insurance limit (\$250,000) are fully FDIC insured. **(Assembly Local Government Committee)**

A. 3659 (Hoyt)
S. 1241 (Thompson)

IDA REFORM: This bill contains numerous provisions to increase transparency and accountability for industrial development agencies. These reforms include 1) placing limits on IDA financing of recreational facilities, 2) dissolving IDAs with no outstanding debt 5 years after their creation and 3) requiring IDAs to provide "project reports" to the Office of the State Comptroller detailing the total amount and type of financial assistance provided by the IDA as well as forgone tax revenue. **(Assembly Local Government Committee/Senate Local Government Committee).**

<p>S. 5600-B (Stewart-Cousins) A. 8624-B (Hoyt)</p>	<p>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROCUREMENT SAVINGS ACT OF 2009: Municipalities would be allowed to forego competitive bidding requirements on purchases of information technology and telecommunications hardware, software, and professional services. Such purchases would instead be able to be purchased through cooperative purchasing. (Senate First Report/Assembly Ways and Means Committee)</p>
<p>A. 3322 (Pretlow) S. 2717 (Adams)</p>	<p>AUDITS AND BUDGETS OF OFF TRACK BETTING CORPORATIONS (OTBs): This bill would authorize the State Racing and Wagering Board, upon a finding based on a reasonable basis that an OTB is not complying with the law, to order the OTB to have its business and managerial practices audited. It also requires OTBs to submit copies of their annual budget to the Racing and Wagering Board no later than 20 days after approval by the OTBs board. (Assembly Third Reading/Senate Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee)</p>
<p>A. 7060 (Carrozza) S. 5543 (Klein)</p>	<p>PROHIBITION ON REDUCING RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES: This legislation prevents municipalities from reducing the health insurance benefits of their retirees unless corresponding reductions were to be implemented for active employees. This prohibition already exists for school districts. (Assembly Gov't Employees Committee/ Senate Civil Service and Pensions Committee)</p>
<p>S. 4912 (Addabbo) A. 3705 (John)</p>	<p>PREVAILING WAGE REQUIREMENT ON PUBLIC WORK CONTRACTS: This bill would subject all public works contracts financed, in whole or in part, by an industrial development agency (IDA), job development authority (JDA), or similar public entity to the prevailing wage requirements under Article 8 of the State Labor Law. (Senate Labor Committee/Assembly Labor Committee)</p>
<p>A. 4319 (Weisenberg) S. 717 (Johnson)</p>	<p>CREATION OF A NEW MUNICIPAL DEPOSIT PROGRAM: This bill would permit credit unions, savings banks, and savings and local associations to accept public deposits. A local government would be limited to keeping no more than \$1 million with any one credit union, savings bank, or savings and loan institution. (Assembly Ways and Means Committee/Senate Local Government Committee)</p>
<p>A. 7834 (Koon) S. 5426 (Aubertine)</p>	<p>EXPANSION OF MUNICIPAL HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SERVICE SHARING: This bill removes limitations upon county highway superintendents to rent road machinery. Also permits town highway superintendents (with governing board approval) to contract with a municipality, district, district corporation, school district, community college or unit of a state university to provide services and equipment. Under present law, county highway superintendents may contract with entities within the county and town highway superintendents with entities within the town. This bill would remove those limitations. (Assembly Transportation Committee/Passed Senate)</p>
<p>A. 9782 (Schroeder) S. 6434 (Stachowski)</p>	<p>ESTABLISHMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACT BIDDERS: This bill sets responsibility standards for bidders on state and local public works contracts where competitive bidding is required. Such standards include having bidders 1) complete a responsibility questionnaire; 2) verify that they have workers' compensation coverage and have not violated prevailing wage, workers' compensation or unemployment insurance laws and regulations; and 3) confirm that they provide apprenticeship training. (Assembly Local Government Committee/Senate Third Reading)</p>