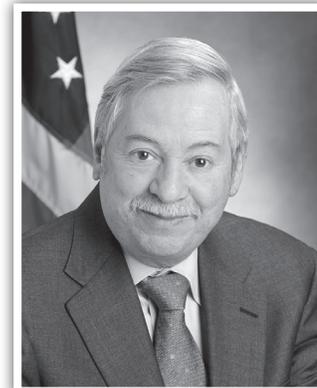


MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

The Assembly Committee on Governmental Employees has jurisdiction over proposals pertaining to civil service requirements and regulations such as the Taylor Law, ratifying State employee contracts, hearing procedures and civil service lists and to public pensions and the public pension system. A majority of the proposals that pass through this Committee pertain to pension systems.



While negotiations on the State budget and other legislative priorities were being negotiated, the Governmental Employees Committee passed a number of important legislative initiatives. In this newsletter, you will find the Committee's dedication to the hard working men and women of our State's municipal workforce from ground breaking health care initiatives that protect families across New York State to maintaining much needed services that we rely on every day.

I would like to thank the Committee members and staff for their dedication and attention to the needs of our State's public employees. Additionally, I would like to thank the public employee organizations, their representatives and the many government officials whose input on legislation is invaluable.

If you have any questions or concerns about issues or legislation before the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Peter J. Abbate Jr.".

Peter Abbate, Jr.
Chairman

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES

This legislative session the Assembly negotiated initiatives that would provide much needed benefits to our troops while they are away defending our freedom. Below is a modest example in recognition of their service.

Pension Buyback for Military Personnel – A9531 (Chapter 41 of 2016) – This bill would allow all veterans who have served in the military to purchase 3 years of retirement service credit. This bill would make equal the benefits currently afforded to active veterans under the Military Service Credit: Law of 2000.

ASSEMBLYMAN PETER ABBATE'S OFFICES

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RETURNING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO ACTIVE DUTY

It is all too often we hear negative stories in the media of public employees “gaming” the system or taking advantage when it comes to retirement or disability benefits. Nothing could be further from the truth. This year the Committee has evaluated many bills from first responders who would like to return to their jobs in order to continue to serve their community after having been placed on disability.

One of the most compelling stories was of Aaron Heroux, a police officer from the Clinton County Sheriff’s Department who was on the force for over 10 years. After falling ill and suffering from Cystic Fibrosis, Officer Heroux was released from duty after surgery for a double lung transplant. Fortunately, after a successful lung transplant and arduous rehabilitation, his Doctors cleared him to go back to work. Despite



the Sheriff’s Department wanting him back on the job, along with his desire to continue to serve and protect, New York State law would not allow it. The NYS Assembly wholeheartedly approved a bill in order for him to return to work (**A.10226**).

LINE OF DUTY DEATH BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES OF FALLEN UNIFORMED PERSONNEL



It is always a sad time when one of our uniformed personnel dies in the line of duty. During this time of grief, it is only fitting we honor these valiant heroes in a fashion that is fitting to the dignity and dedication for which they have provided to the community.

Cost of Living Increase for Widows of Fallen Uniformed Personnel – A.9200-A

This legislation extends the escalation of a cost of living increase of approximately 3% for all line-of-duty widows or widowers for fiscal year 2016-17.

Death Benefit for Fallen employees of the Sanitation Department – A.6083

This Legislation would provide a special accidental death benefit to beneficiaries of sanitation employees who died on the job.

PROTECTION AND RETENTION OF OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

Over the course of this legislative session several pieces of legislation were introduced that would protect the individuals that our community relies on most; our police, fire, sanitation and corrections workers. In recognition of the role these working men and women play in our society and the risks they take every day when they suit up for work, the Assembly took action on several pieces of legislation to protect our first responders. The ability to retain our veteran forces so they may teach our incoming recruits life lessons, learned through on the job experience, is also of great importance. Below are pieces of legislation that acknowledge this:

A.9851 This legislation would increase the mandatory police age for separation of service from 62 to 65 years of age. This bill would ensure that veteran members of the police department are kept in employment to share the on the job knowledge with new recruits.

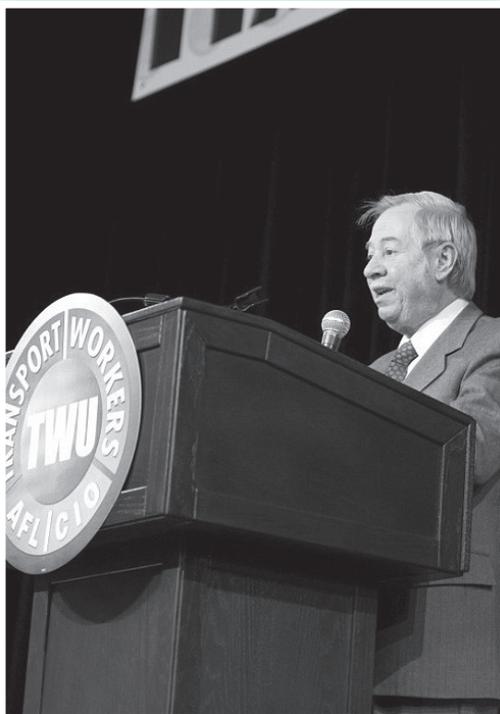
A.9199 This bill would clarify disability benefits for Court Officers that are rendered disabled from the job.

A.9093 This bill would extend the tuition credits afforded to our first responders continuing their education.

A.7146 This legislation would allow for a look back from 3 to 5 years for cancer presumptions for firefighters across New York State. This would allow for the recalculation of retirement benefits if a firefighter has contracted cancer up to 5 years after being retired.



CIVIL SERVICE AND TAYLOR LAW REFORMS



To ensure the constituencies of the State of New York that the services they rely on most will be continued without any interruption, the Assembly passed the following measures that will make sure the workforce runs efficiently and effectively. Below are the bills:

TBTA – Dispute Resolution (A.6564)

This bill would grant binding arbitration to Tri-borough bridge and tunnel authority superior officers benevolent association members.

NYC Fire AMT – Promotions (A.9441)

This bill would ensure for Merit and Fitness within the Fire Department when promotions are considered for Advanced Medical Technicians.

Extension of the NYC Provisional Plan (A.10445)

This bill would continue to extend New York City's' plan to reduce the number of provisional employees it has in the work force. The original bill from 2008 will be extended under this legislation to ensure that the City remains within the State guidelines with regard to provisional employees.

WORLD TRADE CENTER RESCUE AND RECOVERY LEGISLATION

In 2004, the New York State Legislature passed a law that would establish a presumptive disability retirement related to exposure to elements in connection with the World Trade Center tragedy of September 11, 2001 (A.11684 of 2004). This year the Legislature revisited the issue with the following bill:

Extension of the Filing of Notifications for WTC illnesses A.7958-C

This bill re-opens notice of participation for certain workers who contracted illness suffered as a result of participating in rescue, recovery, and clean up directly related to attacks at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

*News from the
NYS Assembly Committee on*

Governmental Employees

Peter J. Abbate, Chair • Carl E. Heastie, Speaker

DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR OUR CITY UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

This year the Assembly continued to battle with the City Council and Mayor of New York City to restore the $\frac{3}{4}$ Line of Duty disability benefits for our Uniformed Personnel in NYC. As a result of this diligent effort, the city has agreed to restore the $\frac{3}{4}$ disability benefits for Fire Fighters, Fire Officers and Medical Doctors employed by the Fire Department.

The Assembly is committed to continue to fight to restore these overdue benefits to the rest of the uniformed services in the City. Below are the proposals that reference each restoration for each uniformed service:

Restoration of $\frac{3}{4}$ Disability – Benefits for Fire Fighters, Fire Officers and Medical Officers – A.10567

Restoration of $\frac{3}{4}$ Disability Benefits for Sanitation Workers and Corrections Officers – A.8032

Restoration of $\frac{3}{4}$ Disability Benefits for Police Officers – A.10044