

2019 NYSPFFA Legislative Conference

SUPPORT:

S.5206 (Gounardes)/A.7133 (Abbate)

Senate Floor/Assembly Government Employees Committee

- Clarifies the initial legislative intent of Chapter 406 of 2018, which requires that fire chiefs in “combination departments” (departments with both paid professional and volunteer firefighters) satisfy basic training and education requirements established by the state fire administrator.
- This legislation underscores that the aforementioned requirements apply to both professional and volunteer firefighters serving as fire chiefs.
- The enactment of S.5206/A.7133 into law is necessary to protect the health and safety of NYSPFFA fire fighters involved in fire situations, but more importantly to ensure that the communities that are served by combination fire departments have fire chiefs that are adequately trained and prepared for fires or other catastrophic events.

S.5246 (Gounardes)

Senate Cities Committee

- Provides retirees of the New York City fire department a five-year lookback window for retirees who are diagnosed with lymphatic, digestive, hematological, urinary, neurological, breast, reproductive, or prostate cancer or melanoma with the same presumption of evidence for disability benefits as is received by other firefighters around the state.
- This legislation is necessary because these cancers can often take years to metastasize and a firefighter may not realize they are sick until after they leave public service.

A.6109 (Abbate)

Assembly Government Employees Committee

- Declares it to be the public policy of the State of New York that for police officers and firefighters, disciplinary procedures are terms and conditions of employment subject to mandatory negotiation under the Taylor Law.

S.3811 (Gounardes)/A.5783 (Abbate)

Senate Insurance Committee/Assembly Insurance Committee

- This legislation would provide a greater balance in allocating the percentage of foreign fire tax (2%) monies pursuant to Section 9105 of the Insurance Law.

- Currently 10% of the total foreign fire tax monies collected by the State go to Firemen's Association of New York (FASNY). On the other hand, NYSPFFA, the umbrella organization for paid, professional fire fighters, does not receive any distribution of the foreign fire tax monies. This bill would still allocate 9% of the foreign fire tax monies to FASNY with the other 1% distributed to NYSPFFA. Importantly, such redistribution would not affect or change the amounts being distributed directly to the fire companies.

S.1605 (Breslin)

Senate Insurance Committee

- There are local laws and special laws enacted by the legislature that predate sections 9104 and 9105, many of which date back to the early 1900s and include terminology and various entities that are no longer in use.
- This legislation would provide an avenue for local governments to update their antiquated and outdated laws related to the disbursement of foreign fire insurance.

S.3168-A (Gounardes) & A.4079-A (Joyner)

Senate Finance Committee/Assembly Government Employees Committee

- Since 1978, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, a cost of living increase and a one-year escalation for all New York State widows and widowers of police officers and fire fighters killed in the line-of-duty. The intent of the original 1978 law was to increase benefits to an amount that would reflect the impact of inflation. The law, however, did not provide for any additional cost of living increases after July 1, 1979.
- We support extending the escalation of a cost of living increase of approximately 3% for all line-of-duty widows or widowers for this fiscal year.

“Bubble Bill”

- Legislation has been submitted to potential sponsors to allow members who joined the New York State and Local Police and Fire Retirement System on or after July 1, 2009 and before January 9, 2010 to enroll in a special retirement plan.
- We are currently awaiting a Fiscal Note from the State Comptroller.