



New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association, Inc

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REV. JOHN TALLMAN
40 Collins Place
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RE: AN ACT to amend the civil service law,
in relation to the calculation of final average
salary for certain members of the New York
state and local police and fire retirement system

S.8401 (Gounardes)

A.9581 (Abbate)

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

The New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association (NYSPFFA), I.A.F.F. AFL-CIO, a not-for-profit association representing approximately 18,000 fire fighters in 107 Locals in various cities, villages and towns across New York State, strongly supports the enactment of this legislation, which will restore a one-year Final Average Salary (FAS) benefit to firefighter Locals who lost such benefit for new firefighters due to the enactment of Tier VI of the New York State and Local Police and Fire Retirement System (NYSLPFRS), by extending the benefit to their Tier VI firefighters.

This bill will only impact those municipalities that previously elected to provide a one-year FAS benefit to their workforce prior to the adoption of Tier VI, which has a five-year FAS. 12 municipalities had negotiated with NYSPFFA Locals to make this election.

The enactment of this bill would reinstate a benefit that our firefighters collectively negotiated in good faith with their respective employers in lieu of other benefits such as pay raises and health care, and which was taken away without discussion or compensation.

Furthermore, firefighters across the state in Tiers I, II, III and V are permitted a one-year FAS, but not Tier VI members. It is blatantly unfair and damaging to morale to allow some firefighters to realize this retirement benefit, while many of their brothers and sisters risking their lives while performing the same job in the same city cannot, solely due to method in which Tier VI was drafted.

For the foregoing reasons, the New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association strongly supports the enactment of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel A. Fresina, President
New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association