



NEW YORK STATE PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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2024 NYSPFFA Legislation Talking Points

Pension Reform for Firefighters

NYSPFFA is once again one of the leading voices in advocating for pension fairness in New York State. Locals across the state continue to have difficulty with recruitment and retention of professional fire fighters and we need changes to the state's pension system now! Specifically, NYSPFFA is supporting the following bills:

- Reduce Tier VI Final Average Salary (FAS) calculation from 5 consecutive years to 3 consecutive years (S.8305-B Senate Budget & S.8490 Jackson/A.9133 Pheffer Amato)
- Eliminate or raise the 15% overtime limit for both Tier V and Tier VI (S.6343-A Gounardes/A.6574-A Pheffer Amato)
- Fixed 3% Tier VI member contribution percentage 3% (S.8757 Jackson & A.5487 Pheffer Amato)
- Reduce military service credit for Tier VI from 6% to 3% (S.7540 Scarcella-Spanton/A.7343 Pheffer Amato)

Equitable Distribution of Foreign Fire Insurance (S.6269 Gounardes/A.7160-A Weprin)

This bill will create a greater balance in allocating the percentage of foreign fire tax (2%) monies under the insurance law to provide a permanent and recurring source of funding for NYSPFFA's statewide health and safety programs, which are instrumental in helping to reduce fire fighter injury, illness and death.

OFPC Interior Fire Fighter Reporting (S.8574 Jackson/A.9241 Weprin)

This legislation will require the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) to report on an annual basis, by fire department or fire district, the firefighters that are qualified for interior firefighting.

Bills Awaiting Sponsorship/Fiscal Notes:

Thyroid Cancer Presumption

Sen. Gounardes and Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato will be sponsoring language to include endocrine/thyroid to the list of cancer presumptions for disability retirement. New York City firefighters were covered by similar legislation in 2023.

PTSD Benefits

NYSPFFA has been working with police organizations and other interested parties on legislation related to benefits (Workers' Compensation/207a) for first responders when they suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a result of their profession.

COLA Death Benefit Extension

This cost-of-living legislation is introduced and passed on an annual basis in New York State and increases certain special accidental death benefits to account for a cost of living increase for all widows and widowers of firefighters killed in the line-of-duty.