

Dear County Corrections Local Presidents,

I'm writing to update you on a pension bill we helped pass during this year's State Legislative Session.

In order to address concerns raised by our County Correctional Officers, we worked closely with the AFSCME Legislative & Political Action team to pass new pension legislation, A6277 (Abbate) and S1850 (Ortt).

The new state law would allow officers to receive a full pension benefit after 20 years of service, instead of the current state requirement of 25 years. Under current law, counties cannot lessen the 25 year service requirement, even through contract negotiations. This bill allows counties to opt-in to a 20 year service requirement.

Staunch labor supporters Senator Robert Ortt and Assemblyman Peter Abbate sponsored our bill, which passed overwhelmingly in both houses. When this legislation is sent to Gov. Cuomo's desk – probably in the fall - we will need your help to encourage him to sign the bill. We plan to set up an action hotline and website so members can call and email Governor Cuomo to let him know that this bill is important.

**In the meantime, there is something that YOU can do to help us get this bill signed by the governor.**

To reinforce our efforts, we are seeking support from elected and appointed County leadership, such as County Executives or County Managers, specifically, the people who sit across the bargaining table from you during contract negotiations.

In his veto of the bill last year, the governor cited increased costs to local governments and his concern about passing unfunded mandates on to local officials. This bill does not do that. It only allows counties to OPT-IN and to negotiate this issue if they choose to. Getting local officials to support – or at least not oppose - this bill would be very helpful.

Please let us know how your efforts to recruit support from elected officials goes, and we look forward to continuing to push this bill over the finish line. Thank you for all that you do to keep New Yorkers safe.

In Solidarity,  
Ronald Walsh  
President, Council 82