



Retired Public Employees Association Legislative Actions

Let's Start 2012 with GOOD NEWS!!!

Governor Cuomo Signs Prior Notice Law
Dinapoli Seeking to Protect the Integrity
of the Pension System

Governor Cuomo Signs Chapter 603 of the Laws of 2011

This new law requires that records discussed at open meetings be made public. RPEA had a similar bill in our Legislative Package which would require that health insurance contracts be made public prior to a local public body adopting the same at an open meeting. This new law is the general version of the Abinanti bill (A.7872) without the 90 days advance time period! **RPEA proposed the introduction of and supports passage of the Abinanti bill which would require local governments to disclose the terms of changes in retiree health insurance plans before their adoption.**

Specifically, this legislation requires that such records be made available to the public, upon request therefor, to the extent practicable as determined by the agency, prior to or at the meeting, and posted on the relevant agency's website, if it maintains a regularly and routinely updated website and utilizes a high speed Internet connection, to the extent practicable prior to the meeting.

In many instances, a public body covered by the Open Meetings Law conducts a discussion of a record which was not made available to the public prior to or at the meeting. Thus, although members of the public are present at the meeting, they are unable to observe the proceedings in a meaningful way. This new law requires that public bodies covered by the Open Meetings Law make records available to the public that are scheduled to be discussed at the body's meeting.

RPEA supports DiNapoli to Protect the Integrity of the Pension System

Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli reignited his push for a tougher set of penalties on officials who abuse the public's trust after the man who bribed former Sen. Carl Kruger plead guilty. Former Senator Kruger plead guilty to conspiracy charges and resigned his position but he will receive his full pension benefits.

DiNapoli announced he would resubmit a program bill - **The program bill will be a revised version of the bill which RPEA had in it's Legislative Package last year.** DiNapoli said his bill would institute a penalty of up to two times the amount a public official profited from a crime. The crime would have to be committed in his/her official capacity.

2012 State of the State Address

[Click here for the press release](#)
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INFORMED**

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