



Annual Report 2024

New York State Senate
Standing Committee on

Civil Service and Pensions

SENATOR ROBERT JACKSON

Chair

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore
NYS Senate Majority Leader

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT
NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS

Senator Robert Jackson, Chairperson

Committee Members

<u>Majority</u>	<u>Minority</u>
Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. Senator Iwen Chu Senator Andrew Gounardes Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton	Senator Alexis Weik, Ranking Member Senator Marrio R. Mattera

Committee Staff

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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

ROBERT JACKSON
SENATOR, 31ST DISTRICT

CHAIRPERSON
Civil Service and Pensions

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Cities I
Education
Higher Education
Housing, Construction and
Community Development
Labor
New York City Education

MEMBER

New York State Black, Puerto Rican,
Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus

December 31, 2024

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins:

I am pleased to transmit the Annual Report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Civil Service and Pensions for the 2024 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my Committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2024 session, this committee met seven times in session and reported 63 bills and considered one nomination to the Public Employment Relations Board.

I thank my colleagues who served on the Committee for their efforts and support of the work that was done in the committee this year. I also thank you for the continued support from the Majority Conference in the committee's operations.

In Unity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Robert Jackson'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Jackson
Senator, 31st District

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Civil Service and Pensions has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning the civil service and retirement systems in our state.

During the 2024 Legislative Session, 292 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 63 were reported from the Committee. Eighteen bills were passed by both houses and seven were passed by the Senate only. The Governor has signed twelve bills into law and vetoed six bills. This work was conducted through a series of seven committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the Committee in 2024:

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S179A	Jackson	Relates to the appointment and promotion of supervisors of the fire alarm dispatcher service	Vetoed by the Governor
S5131	Webb	Relates to forfeiture of a beneficiary's right to benefits upon conviction of domestic violence offense	Passed the Senate only
S5289B	Mayer	Relates to the calculation of past service credit for certain deputy sheriffs transferring between the state and local employees' retirement system to the state and local police and fire retirement system	Passed the Senate only
S6306B	Jackson	Provides WTC-related benefits to certain employees who worked at the Verrazano Bridge Toll Facility	Passed the Senate only
S6335B	Mannion	Relates to unclassified civil service of the state; and authorizes the Syracuse Hancock International Airport to hire and promote employees on a permanent basis	Vetoed by the Governor
S6478	Gounardes	Relates to hearing procedures for certain public employees	Passed the Senate only
S7462B	Ryan	Allows retired employees of the New York state teachers' retirement system who suspend their retirement option a benefit recalculation after two years of service	Chapter 578 of 2024
S7498A	Jackson	Relates to eligibility for participants in the automotive 25 year/age 50 pension plan with more than 30 years of credited service who remain in active service after age 62 to receive a service retirement benefit	Vetoed by the Governor
S8216A	Jackson	Requires that applicants not be prohibited from taking competitive civil service exams	Chapter 303 of 2024
S8408	Jackson	Allows beneficiaries of certain deceased members to elect to receive death benefits in a lump sum	Vetoed by the Governor
S8551	Jackson	Relates to updating civil service examinations	Chapter 305 of 2024
S8557	Jackson	Relates to crediting of provisional time for promotional examinations	Chapter 208 of 2024

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S8746	Jackson	Extends provisions related to public arbitration panels	Chapter 134 of 2024
S8788	Jackson	Relates to age and service eligibility requirements for ordinary retirement for members of the unified court system	Vetoed by the Governor
S8948	Jackson	Relates to the disclosure of information to employees	Chapter 306 of 2024
S8960	Jackson	Relates to hearing officers	Vetoed by the Governor
S8997	Martinez	Relates to the retirement of certain members of the Suffolk county fire district	Chapter 494 of 2024
S9076	Gouardes	Relates to increasing certain special accidental death benefits	Chapter 162 of 2024

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2024, 18 of the 292 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Civil Service and Pensions passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed twelve and vetoed six.

2024 Senate Civil Service and Pensions Committee 2 House

BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S00179A	JACKSON	Relates to the appointment and promotion of supervisors of the fire alarm dispatcher service; requires that a promotion be based on merit and fitness as determined by competitive examination, due weight being given to seniority.	Vetoed Memorandum 90
S06335B	MANNION	Relates to unclassified civil service of the state; authorizes the Syracuse Hancock International Airport to hire and promote employees on a permanent basis.	Vetoed Memorandum 99
S07462B	RYAN	Allows retired employees of the New York state teachers' retirement system who return to active service and suspend their pension benefit to elect to combine their service credit earned prior to retirement with the service credit earned after their restoration to active service, provided they have earned at least two years of service credit since such restoration. Eff. Date 02/11/2025 New York State Teachers' Retirement System	Chaptered 578
S07498A	JACKSON	Relates to eligibility for participants in the automotive 25 year/age 50 pension plan with more than 30 years of credited service who remain in active service after age 62 to receive a service retirement benefit equivalent to the standard service retirement benefit received by Tier IV members with the same age and service.	Vetoed Memorandum 101
S07841	HELMING	Authorizes Michael Kurtz, a part-time police officer, with the village of Warsaw police department to take the civil service examination and be eligible for appointment as a full time police officer for the village of Warsaw. Eff. Date 08/14/2024	Chaptered 223

S08216A	JACKSON	Requires that applicants not be prohibited from taking competitive civil service exams if they will meet the minimum age requirement or attain the minimum education requirement within twelve months.	Substituted By A8876 - Chaptered 303
S08408	JACKSON	Allows a beneficiary of a member whose death occurs on or after July 1, 2024 and who would have been entitled to a service credit at the time of such member's death to elect to receive a lump sum payment equal to the pension reserve that would have been established had the member retired on the date of such member's death.	Substituted By A9084 - Vetoed Memorandum 82
S08411	WALCZYK	Deems an application filed with the New York state and local police and fire retirement system by the widow of Paul C. Adam as timely filed. Eff. Date 09/11/2024	Chaptered 314
S08472A	JACKSON	Relates to establishing a twenty year retirement plan for members or officers of law enforcement; includes every non-seasonally appointed sworn member or officer of the division of law enforcement in the department of environmental conservation, a forest ranger in the service of the department of environmental conservation, a police officer in the department of environmental conservation, the regional state park police, and university police officers in such twenty year plan.	Substituted By A8918A - Vetoed Memorandum 16
S08551	JACKSON	Provides that the state civil service department shall review and update the questions contained within the examination, as deemed appropriate by the department, no less than every five years.	Substituted By A9349 - Chaptered 305
S08557	JACKSON	Provides for crediting of time spent as a provisional appointee for promotional examinations and eligibility for appointment from the resulting eligible lists. Eff. Date 09/04/2024	Chaptered 307
S08665	MANNION	Makes eligible for provisional appointment and authorizes Matthew A. Jones to take the competitive civil service examination for the position of police officer and be placed on the eligible list for employment as a full-time police officer for the village of Liverpool police department. Eff. Date 07/25/2024	Chaptered 208

S08746	JACKSON	Extends provisions related to public arbitration panels until 2029.	Substituted By A9516 - Chaptered 134
S08788	JACKSON	Relates to age and service eligibility requirements for ordinary retirement for members of the unified court system; restores 55/30 for all members; reduces the retirement age from 63 to 62.	Vetoed Memorandum 107
S08948	JACKSON	Requires certain information regarding judgments about an employee's inability to perform their duties due to a disability to be provided to the employee and the authorized representative of such employee.	Substituted By A9935 - Chaptered 306
S08960	JACKSON	Expands the authority of hearing officers regarding judgments about an employee's inability to perform their duties due to a disability to be provided to the employee and the authorized representative of such employee.	Substituted By A9932 - Vetoed Memorandum 87
S08997	MARTINEZ	Relates to the retirement of certain members employed as an emergency medical technician, critical care technician, advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic or supervisor of such titles in a participating Suffolk county fire district.	Substituted By A9959 - Chaptered 494
S09076	GOUNARDES	Increases certain special accidental death benefits for state and local retirement system members. Eff. Date 07/01/2024	Chaptered 162
S09295	SCARCELLA-SPANTON	Authorizes the office of court administration to pay certain judicial compensation to Hon. Joseph J. Maltese for the period of January 1, 2021 to November 7, 2021.	Substituted By A10263 - Chaptered 419

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

2024 Senate Civil Service and Pensions Committee Activity			
BILL	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	SIGNIFICANT ACT
S00023	STEC	Authorizes the villages of Malone, Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake, in the county of Franklin, to employ retired former members of the division of state police as part-time village police officers.	Enacting Clause Stricken
S00179A	JACKSON	Relates to the appointment and promotion of supervisors of the fire alarm dispatcher service; requires that a promotion be based on merit and fitness as determined by competitive examination, due weight being given to seniority.	Vetoed Memorandum 90
S02011	SANDERS	Allows certain employees to transfer or receive sick time from a fellow employee.	Reported to Senate Finance
S04074	SANDERS	Prohibits a person convicted of rebellion or insurrection under federal law from state or municipal employment.	Senate Rules
S04132	MANNION	Prevents an agency, department, division, commission, bureau or any other entity under the authority of the executive department from contracting, subcontracting or hiring any third party during a hiring freeze.	Reported to Senate Finance
S04465	BRESLIN	Ensures that public retirees are not having their skilled nursing care benefits reduced under the state health benefit plan at the time they enroll for medicare.	Reported to Senate Finance
S04819	JACKSON	Relates to waiving the earning limitations for retired sworn officers employed by a district attorney as investigators.	Reported to Senate Finance
S05015A	GOUNARDES	Authorizes the promotion of personnel to the positions of General Superintendent 2 and General Superintendent 3; provides that such positions shall be filled as far as practicable by promotion from among persons holding competitive class positions in a lower grade in the sanitation department of the city of New York in which the vacancy exists.	Senate Rules
S05131	WEBB	Permits a retired member to change his or her option election or designate a new beneficiary where the beneficiary has been convicted of a family offense.	Passed the Senate

S05211B	JACKSON	Provides a lung disease presumption for correction officers, correction supervisors, deputy sheriff patrol or deputy sheriff patrol supervisors.	Reported to Senate Finance
S05289B	MAYER	Relates to the calculation of past service credit for members in the title of deputy sheriff who provided police protection or correction officer service transferring between the New York state and local employees' retirement system to the New York state and local police and fire retirement system.	Passed the Senate
S05361A	MANNION	Grants Peter Guarino retroactive membership with Tier IV status in the New York state teachers' retirement system.	Passed the Senate
S05467A	GOUNARDES	Relates to primary social security retirement benefits for certain members; provides that in the computation of the normal service retirement benefit of members of the New York city fire department pension fund, there shall be no reduction for the primary social security retirement benefit.	Reported to Senate Finance
S05536B	SKOUFIS	Provides for certain death benefits to correction officers, correction officer-sergeants, correction officer-captains, assistant wardens, associate wardens or wardens employed by Orange county.	Senate Rules
S05618C	THOMAS	Increases the amount of years of military service credit a member may purchase from three years to four years; provides that the provisions of such act shall not be subject to the requirement that the state shall make an equal payment to the retirement system.	Reported to Senate Finance
S05791A	JACKSON	Provides that for New York city uniformed correction revised plan members of the New York city employees' retirement system, the service retirement benefit shall not be reduced by the primary social security retirement benefit commencing at age sixty-two.	Reported to Senate Finance
S05792A	JACKSON	Provides that for New York city police/fire members, uniformed correction/sanitation revised plan and investigator revised plan members of the New York city employees' retirement system, the service retirement benefit shall not be reduced by the primary social security retirement benefit commencing at age sixty-two.	Reported to Senate Finance

S05793A	JACKSON	Provides that for New York city uniformed sanitation revised plan members of the New York city employees' retirement system, the service retirement benefit shall not be reduced by the primary social security retirement benefit commencing at age sixty-two.	Reported to Senate Finance
S05831A	JACKSON	Relates to the disability retirement for safety and security officers.	Reported to Senate Finance
S05876A	SKOUFIS	Authorizes the beneficiaries of a member of the state and local employees' retirement system who dies after filing a retirement application to choose pension benefits rather than a death benefit.	Reported to Senate Finance
S06054A	JACKSON	Relates to the election of retirement benefits for certain members of the New York state and local employees' retirement system who are employed by the office of mental health.	Reported to Senate Finance
S06155A	SKOUFIS	Authorizes retired firefighters to be employed as fire science instructors by career and technical education centers without a reduction of their retirement benefits.	Reported to Senate Finance
S06252A	JACKSON	Provides cost-of-living adjustments for certain public retirees, including an adjusted benefit in monthly installments that is equal to the percentage of the change in consumer price index according to the included schedule.	Reported to Senate Finance
S06290A	SCARCELLA-SPANTON	Relates to the determination of salary base for members of the New York city police pension fund; provides that the salary base for members of the New York city police pension fund whose employment with the police department of the city of New York commenced on or after July 1, 2000 shall be determined in the same manner as members whose employment commenced prior to such date.	Reported to Senate Finance
S06306B	JACKSON	Provides WTC-related benefits to certain employees who worked at the Verrazano Bridge Toll Facility.	Passed the Senate
S06335B	MANNION	Relates to unclassified civil service of the state; authorizes the Syracuse Hancock International Airport to hire and promote employees on a permanent basis.	Vetoed Memorandum 99
S06343A	GOUNARDES	Increases the limitation of overtime compensation in final average salary calculations from fifteen percent to thirty percent.	Reported to Senate Finance

S06361A	BROUK	Relates to changes of membership eligibility in a New York state retirement system.	Passed the Senate
S06455	SCARCELLA-SPANTON	Enacts the "New York state teleworking expansion act"; provides that each state agency shall establish a policy and program to allow employees to perform all or a portion of their duties through teleworking to the maximum extent possible without diminished employee performance.	Reported to Senate Finance
S06478	JACKSON	Relates to hearing procedures for certain public employees; provides that the recommendation of a hearing officer in relation to designated managerial and confidential employees shall be considered final and not subject to change or modification.	Passed the Senate
S06857A	RHOADS	Authorizes the New York state and local employees' retirement system to accept an application for disability retirement benefits from Andrew Reilly, Jr.	Reported to Senate Finance
S07075A	SCARCELLA-SPANTON	Relates to the eligibility of New York city transit authority employees for performance of duty disability retirement.	Reported to Senate Finance
S07108B	THOMAS	Relates to authorizing state university police, regional state park police and detective investigators for the office of the attorney general to receive additional service credit in an optional twenty year retirement plan.	Reported to Senate Finance
S07196A	JACKSON	Grants Nassau county fire marshals, supervising fire marshals, fire marshals, assistant fire marshals, assistant chief fire marshals or chief fire marshals pension benefits for service rendered beyond twenty-five years.	Reported to Senate Finance
S07324A	CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK	Authorizes Robin Garfinkle, the widow of Howard Mahler, to file a retirement option election on behalf of her deceased husband.	Reported to Senate Finance
S07376	JACKSON	Provides for background checks for police transfer candidates. Department of Civil Service	Passed the Senate

S07462B	RYAN	Allows retired employees of the New York state teachers' retirement system who return to active service and suspend their pension benefit to elect to combine their service credit earned prior to retirement with the service credit earned after their restoration to active service, provided they have earned at least two years of service credit since such restoration. Eff. Date 02/11/2025 New York State Teachers' Retirement System	Chaptered 578
S07498A	JACKSON	Relates to eligibility for participants in the automotive 25 year/age 50 pension plan with more than 30 years of credited service who remain in active service after age 62 to receive a service retirement benefit equivalent to the standard service retirement benefit received by Tier IV members with the same age and service.	Vetoed Memorandum 101
S07540	SCARCELLA-SPANTON	Relates to obtaining military credit for members of the New York state and local police and fire retirement system; provides that the calculation for military credit shall be equal to the product of the number of years of military service being claimed and three percent of such member's compensation earned during the twelve months of credited service.	Reported to Senate Finance
S07841	HELMING	Authorizes Michael Kurtz, a part-time police officer, with the village of Warsaw police department to take the civil service examination and be eligible for appointment as a full time police officer for the village of Warsaw. Eff. Date 08/14/2024	Chaptered 223
S08216A	JACKSON	Requires that applicants not be prohibited from taking competitive civil service exams if they will meet the minimum age requirement or attain the minimum education requirement within twelve months.	Substituted By A8876 - Chaptered 303
S08230	JACKSON	Provides procedures to be followed in appointing a hearing officer for removal and disciplinary action against certain public employees not in the service of the city of New York, including the fees to be paid for such hearing officer; provides for suspension, with pay, pending the determination.	Reported to Senate Finance
S08321	MANNION	Allows for NYSTRS retirees to change their retirement plan beneficiary to a spouse at any time either prior to or after retirement.	Reported to Senate Finance

S08388B	HARCKHAM	Prohibits public employers from diminishing health insurance benefits provided to retirees and their dependents or the contributions such employer makes for such health insurance coverage below the level of such benefits or contributions made on behalf of such retirees and dependents by the public employer as of December 31, 2021.	Reported to Senate Finance
S08408	JACKSON	Allows a beneficiary of a member whose death occurs on or after July 1, 2024 and who would have been entitled to a service credit at the time of such member's death to elect to receive a lump sum payment equal to the pension reserve that would have been established had the member retired on the date of such member's death.	Substituted By A9084 - Vetoed Memorandum 82
S08411	WALCZYK	Deems an application filed with the New York state and local police and fire retirement system by the widow of Paul C. Adam as timely filed. Eff. Date 09/11/2024	Chaptered 314
S08472A	JACKSON	Relates to establishing a twenty year retirement plan for members or officers of law enforcement; includes every non-seasonally appointed sworn member or officer of the division of law enforcement in the department of environmental conservation, a forest ranger in the service of the department of environmental conservation, a police officer in the department of environmental conservation, the regional state park police, and university police officers in such twenty year plan.	Substituted By A8918A - Vetoed Memorandum 16
S08515	JACKSON	Repeals provisions relating to resolutions of disputes in the course of collective negotiations with certain deputy sheriffs to provide such deputy sheriffs with the same interest arbitration scope as municipal police officers.	Senate Rules
S08551	JACKSON	Provides that the state civil service department shall review and update the questions contained within the examination, as deemed appropriate by the department, no less than every five years.	Substituted By A9349 - Chaptered 305
S08557	JACKSON	Provides for crediting of time spent as a provisional appointee for promotional examinations and eligibility for appointment from the resulting eligible lists. Eff. Date 09/04/2024	Chaptered 307

S08665	MANNION	Makes eligible for provisional appointment and authorizes Matthew A. Jones to take the competitive civil service examination for the position of police officer and be placed on the eligible list for employment as a full-time police officer for the village of Liverpool police department. Eff. Date 07/25/2024	Chaptered 208
S08746	JACKSON	Extends provisions related to public arbitration panels until 2029.	Substituted By A9516 - Chaptered 134
S08780	JACKSON	Provides a heart disease presumption for correction officers, correction supervisors, deputy sheriff patrol or deputy sheriff patrol supervisors.	Reported to Senate Finance
S08788	JACKSON	Relates to age and service eligibility requirements for ordinary retirement for members of the unified court system; restores 55/30 for all members; reduces the retirement age from 63 to 62.	Vetoed Memorandum 107
S08818	JACKSON	Provides that the normal service retirement benefit for police/fire members who are members of the New York city fire department pension fund shall be paid to such members of the New York city fire department pension fund without regard to age upon retirement after twenty years of service.	Reported to Senate Finance
S08819A	JACKSON	Authorizes an optional twenty-five year retirement plan for uniformed court officers and peace officers employed by the unified court system.	Reported to Senate Finance
S08948	JACKSON	Requires certain information regarding judgments about an employee's inability to perform their duties due to a disability to be provided to the employee and the authorized representative of such employee.	Substituted By A9935 - Chaptered 306
S08960	JACKSON	Expands the authority of hearing officers regarding judgments about an employee's inability to perform their duties due to a disability to be provided to the employee and the authorized representative of such employee.	Substituted By A9932 - Vetoed Memorandum 87
S08997	MARTINEZ	Relates to the retirement of certain members employed as an emergency medical technician, critical care technician, advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic or supervisor of such titles in a participating Suffolk county fire district.	Substituted By A9959 - Chaptered 494
S09076	GOUNARDES	Increases certain special accidental death benefits for state and local retirement system members. Eff. Date 07/01/2024	Chaptered 162

S09078	PALUMBO	Relates to granting retroactive Tier II membership in the New York state and local police and fire retirement system for Giuseppe T. Rosini.	Reported to Senate Finance
S09295	SCARCELLA-SPANTON	Authorizes the office of court administration to pay certain judicial compensation to Hon. Joseph J. Maltese for the period of January 1, 2021 to November 7, 2021.	Substituted By A10263 - Chaptered 419
S09451	MARTINEZ	Provides accidental disability retirement benefits for deputy sheriff Richard Stueber, a participant in World Trade Center rescue, recovery, and cleanup operations.	Senate Rules



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Civil Service and Pensions**