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CWA LOCAL 1032

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

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High Priority Bills

A141 Ramos (D-33)

This bill requires hospital, medical and health service corporations, group insurers, health maintenance organizations and the state Health Benefits Commission to provide continuation of health insurance coverage to qualified former employees and their beneficiaries (the employee's spouse and dependent child). A qualified former employee includes any employee whose employment was terminated for a reason other than for cause.

The continuation of coverage would be available to the employees and beneficiaries indefinitely, as long as the employee or beneficiary elects to maintain the coverage, or until:

- (1) the employer ceases to provide any group health plan to any employee or other beneficiary;
- (2) the continuation of coverage ceases because the employee or beneficiary failed to make a timely payment of any premium required under the plan;
- (3) employee or beneficiary obtains coverage under any other health benefits or group health plan, which does not contain a provision which limits or excludes coverage with respect to any preexisting condition of the employee or beneficiary; or
- (4) the employee or beneficiary becomes entitled to Social Security disability benefits.

The premium for the continuation of coverage may be up to 102% of the applicable premium paid for similarly situated employees or beneficiaries under the group health plan.

Status: In the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

Position: Support

A157 Merkt (R-25)

Establishes a Defined Contribution Public Employees' Retirement Program.

Status: In the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Oppose

A263 Vandervalk (R-39)

These bills provide that the mileage reimbursement rate payable to a State officer or employee driving a private automobile on State business will be the same as the standard mileage rate established by the federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for the deductible cost of operating an automobile for business purposes (48.5 cents per mile for 2005). Mileage reimbursement for State employees is currently .31 per mile. This has not changed since early in this decade.

State law provides that the State's mileage reimbursement rate would be 18 cents per mile and that this rate would be adjusted biannually to reflect changes in gasoline prices. Annual Appropriations Acts have adjusted this mileage reimbursement rate. Currently, the rate is 31 cents per mile for FY 2004. It is necessary to establish the State's rate at the same level as the IRS rate (as adjusted periodically for inflation) in order to fairly compensate State officers and employees who drive their own vehicles on public business.

The bills repeal N.J.S.A.52:14-17.1a which provides that the \$0.18 per mile rate in the law would be adjusted twice each year to reflect changes in the price of gasoline.

STATUS: In the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Support

A731 Greenwald (D-6)/Watson Coleman (D-15)

This bill revises the structure, functions and authority of the State Investment Council and the Director of the State Division of Investment. The bill increases the membership of the State Investment Council from 11 to 13, increasing representation from the Public Employee's Retirement System and the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund to two members each, adding a member from the Judicial Retirement System in place of a member of the Consolidated Police and Firemen's Retirement System, and reducing from 5 to 4 the number of members appointed by the Governor. The lengths of members' terms are changed to provide better continuity of membership; the presiding officers of the Legislature are each given the authority to appoint a council member. The members of the council appointed by the presiding officers and the Governor are required to be experts qualified by training or experience in the field of investment and finance.

The bill also establishes a strict system of disclosure and limits on certain campaign contributions made by council members and individuals and entities who are employed to or otherwise provide investment, management or consulting services to the council or the Division of Investment. These limits involve pre-employment and post-employment contribution limits and sanctions for violations.

This bill also makes the State Investment Council responsible for the hiring and supervision of the Director of the Division of Investment, submitting its own annual budget, and obtaining independent audits of the accounts and funds administered by the Division of Investment.

The bill also authorizes the investment in alternative assets which are assets in any asset classes which are not regularly traded or priced in a market or exchange which is regulated by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. They include but are not be limited to hedge funds, venture capital, private equities, direct investments in individual real estate properties, commodities, derivatives, assets that cannot quickly and easily be converted into cash, assets that are subject to leveraging, except for direct investments in real estate properties, which may not be leveraged more than 50%, currency swaps, and any other securities of this type.

Restrictions are placed on the percentage of the book value of the portfolio of investments made by the Division of Investment on behalf of the funds and accounts of all State pension systems made in alternative assets and provide safeguards to protect against the acquisition and disposition of such assets resulting in excessive losses. The bill also establishes a procedure under which the State Investment Council may contract with outside investment managers for the purpose of acquiring, managing and divesting alternative assets if qualified employees of the Division of Investment cannot be hired for these tasks.

STATUS: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Position: Support

A1182 Oliver (D-34)/Greenstein (D-14)

This bill would provide compensatory time off for essential attendance State employees who are required to work in accordance with an essential employee attendance plan. The rate of compensation would be 1½ hours for each hour worked.

STATUS: In the Assembly Labor Committee.

Position: Support

A1280 Carroll (R-25)

This bill prohibits a bona fide employee organization from using any of the moneys that a public employer deducts from its employees' compensation for the purpose of paying employee's dues to that organization to engage in political activities. In addition, it prohibits a public employee from making a contribution through a public employee organization to a political action committee. This bill also prohibits a union to use union dues collected by a private sector employer from that employer's employees for a purpose other than collective negotiations, contract administration and grievance representation unless an employee specifically authorized in writing additional deductions

which may be used for other purposes.

STATUS: In the Assembly Labor Committee

Position: Opposed

A1288 Carroll /Merkt (R-25)

This bill provides that a person holding employment with the State or with a county, with a municipality, or any governmental agency shall not be a candidate for any elective public or party office, shall make no contribution thereto, or participate in any campaign therefore. It also provides that labor unions that represent governmental employees would be prohibited from engaging in political activity and from soliciting or making political contributions.

Status: In the Assembly State Government Committee

Position: Oppose

A1476 Burzichelli (D-3/Quigley (3-32)/Cohen (D-20)/Vas (D-19)

S547 Sweeney (D-3)

As amended by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 1909 authorizes an appointing authority, with the concurrence of the Attorney General, to identify those positions it seeks to designate as positions with a domestic security classification. Notice is to be provided to employee representatives, the Attorney General's Office, and the affected employees of the positions which the appointing authority seeks to classify as a domestic security position. The bill further requires a criminal history background check for all employees of and applicants for a domestic security position.

"Position with a domestic security classification" means those where the person holding the position has authorized, direct access to information or critical infrastructure that if improperly disclosed could substantially interfere with the State's ability to protect or defend the State and its citizens against acts of sabotage or terrorism or could materially increase the risk or consequences of potential acts of sabotage or terrorism.

The criminal history background check required by the bill would entail cross-referencing a person's name and fingerprints against those on file with the Division of State Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigations and any other appropriate state, federal, or international agency.

The cost for the criminal history record background check of an applicant, including all costs of administering and processing the check, is to be borne by the applicant, independent contractor or State agency, as determined by the appointing authority. The cost for the criminal history record background check of an employee, including all costs of administering and processing the check, is to be borne by the State agency or independent contractor, as determined by the appointing authority.

An applicant or employee whose criminal history record background information reveals a disqualifying conviction will not be employed or hired unless the applicant has demonstrated rehabilitation. Disqualifying offenses include any crime of the first, second or third degree; recklessly creating a risk of widespread injury or damage in violation of subsection c. of N.J.S.A. 2C:17-2; possession of a simulated document in violation of subsection d. of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-2.1; identity theft in violation of subsection a. of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-17; trafficking in personal identifying information in violation of subsection a. of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-17.3; possession of prohibited weapons and devices in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3; unlawful weapons possession in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5; or an attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the crimes or offenses specified in this paragraph.

The bill provides guidance for determining whether a person has demonstrated rehabilitation and therefore may be eligible for reappointment or employment. This bill was amended in committee to clarify that individuals who have previously been subject to a background check as a condition of employment and who provide satisfactory proof of identity may not be subject to the criminal history background check required by this act.

Status: A1476 is in the Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee. S547 is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Position: CWA 1032 supports language to protect individuals who are not considered to be “rehabilitated.” While the bill gives them rights to other positions and layoff rights, these rights are useless if they are fixed under the forfeiture provision of the Civil Service Law.

A1533 Greenstein (D-14)

S660 Madden (D-24)/Sweeney (D-3)

These bills would prohibit unilateral changing of terms and conditions of employment by public employers.

STATUS: A1533 is in the Assembly State Government Committee. S660 is in the Senate State Government Committee.

Position: Support

A1535 Greenstein (D-14)/Scalera (D-36)

Provides non-forfeitable right to post-retirement medical benefits provided by law to certain public employees (TPAF, PERS and ABP) with 25 years of service.

Status: In the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Support

A1541 Greenstein (D-14) & Gusciora (D-15)

Current law does not allow the State Investment Council or the Director of the Division of Investment in the Department of the Treasury, which are responsible for the investment of assets of the State-administered retirement systems, to delegate management discretion and investment decisions to a private outside entity. This bill explicitly prohibits such delegation.

The bill provides that the Director of the Division of Investment will not contract with, or transfer authority to, any person or entity outside the Division of Investment for the investment or reinvestment of moneys or for the purchase, sale or exchange of any investments or securities under the control and management of the Division of Investment except for the administrative functions of such investment, reinvestment, purchase, sale or exchange transactions. The bill also provides that the State Investment Council will not have the authority to permit any person or entity outside the Division of Investment to exercise the investment discretion of the director of the division with regard to investment, reinvestment, purchase, sale or exchange transactions.

Status: In the Assembly State Government Committee

Position: Support

A1547 Greenstein (D-14)

This bill clarifies that, with respect to public employee collective bargaining, all matters regarding the terms and conditions of the employment of public employees which are not specifically exempted from collective bargaining by State statute are mandatory subjects of collective bargaining. The bill specifies that the matters that are mandatory subjects of collective bargaining include, but are not limited to, any non-exempted matter which has an impact on: compensation and benefits; work to be performed; work load and work obligation; hours and time of the work; performance evaluation; all aspects, criteria and conditions of transfer, assignment and reassignment; discipline and grievances; workplace safety and health; employment security and job retention; and the impact of privatization, contracting and outsourcing.

STATUS: In the Assembly Labor Committee.

Position: Support

A1578 Cohen (D-20)/Greenstein (D-14)

S381 Gill (D-34)

Regulates pharmacy benefits management companies.

Status: A1578 is in the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee. S381 is in the Senate Commerce Committee.

Position: Support

A1877 Connors (D-7)

This bill provides that employees no longer must pay the full cost of purchase of PERS, PFRS or TPAF credit for military service.

Status: In the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Support

S268 Kyrillos (R-13)

Provides that regular work week of all newly-hired full time State or local government employees will be 40 hours.

Status: In the Senate State Government Committee.

Position: Oppose

S269 Kyrillos (R-13)

Limits administrative leave to three days and reduces number of paid holidays from 13 to 10 for State and local government employees.

Status: In the Senate State Government Committee.

Position: Oppose

S270 Kyrillos (R-13)

Requires that public employees who are married or with domestic partners receive health care benefits from only one public employer.

Position: In the Senate State Government committee.

Position: Oppose

S271 Kyrillos (R-13)

Changes prospectively definition of compensation used to calculate benefits in PERS and TPAF to average of five highest-paid years and in PFRS, SPRS, and JRS to average three highest paid years.

Status: In the Senate State Government Committee.

Position: Oppose

S272 Kyrillos (R-13)

Prohibits payment of public employee bonuses not directly contingent upon achieving certain performing goals.

Status: In the Senate State Government Committee.

Position: Oppose

S273 Kyrillos (R-13)

Eliminates membership in various State-administered retirement systems for part-time public employees and elected officials commencing service after enactment; clarifies that part-time public employees and officials are ineligible for employer-paid health benefits.

Status: In the Senate State Government Committee.

Position: Oppose

S274 Kyrillos (R-13)

Provides that public employee pension benefits are calculated on base salary exclusive of various forms of extra compensation.

Status: In the Senate State Government Committee.

Position: Oppose

S287 Kean, T (R-21)

A1142 Russo (R-40)

These bills would limit contributions by those contracting a public entity in excess of \$17,500. Such a business would be prohibited from making, from the submittal of a bid on the start of negotiations and for the contract period, any contributions of money or things of value to any political party, legislative leadership committee, or person having ultimate responsibility for the award of public contracts. In the year prior to a bid submittal or commencement of negotiations those covered by this bill would be limited to a \$400 individual contribution and a \$5,000 aggregate for all candidates covered by this bill. The bill would also establish limits for contributors by political county and municipal committees to \$7,200 per covered person or entity and a \$25,000 limit to legislative leadership or the State committee of a political party.

STATUS: S287 is in the Senate State Government Committee. A1142 is in the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Support

S471 Buono (D-18)/O'Toole(R-40)

A2069 O'Scanlon (R-12)

These bills, as amended by the committee, requires the Treasurer and the Director of the Division of Pensions and Benefits to report in writing, on or before April 15 of each year, to the Legislature and appear before the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and Assembly Budget Committee with a presentation regarding the current funding obligations of the State and other public employers to, and the financial status of, the State-administered retirement systems. The bill also requires the Treasurer and the Director of the Division of Investment to report in writing, on or before December 15 of each year, to the Legislature and appear before the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and Assembly Budget Committee, with a presentation regarding the investment performance of the assets, moneys, securities or other financial instruments of any of the funds or accounts under its management and control on behalf of the pension systems administered by the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

The purpose of these bills is to increase disclosure about the fiscal health of the State's public pension plans by establishing routine reporting to the Legislature and its budget committees on the State's funding obligations and its management of retirement system assets.

Status: S471 was reported from Senate Committee Budget and Appropriations Committee with amendments and given 2nd reading. A2069 proposed for introduction.

Position: Support

S680 Beck (R-12)

This bill provides that after January 1, 2007, or after the expiration of a collective negotiation agreement or an individual employment contract in effect on the bill's effective date, no State, local government, or school district employee, excluding employees who are enrolled in the State Police Retirement System or the Police and Firemen's Retirement System, shall be entitled to receive a payment as supplemental compensation upon retirement for credited accumulated sick leave the equivalent of four weeks of the employee's final compensation, provided that the employee has at least 10 years of service credit in the retirement system. In no event will a payment of supplemental compensation for credited accumulated sick leave to an employee exceed \$10,000.

Current law limits to \$15,000 the maximum amount that may be paid to a State employee for accumulated sick leave when the employee retires; however, there are no comparable legal limits with regard to local government and school board employees.

STATUS: In the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee

Position: Oppose

S783 Kyrillos (R-13)

Permits unused vacation and sick leave by public employees to be carried forward for one year only; requires unused administrative leave to be cancelled.

Status: In the Senate State Government Committee.

Position: Oppose

S872 Turner (D-15)

A263 Vandervalk (R-39)

These bills provide that the mileage reimbursement rate payable to a State officer or employee driving a private automobile on State business will be the same as the standard mileage rate established by the federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for the deductible cost of operating an automobile for business purposes (48.5 cents per mile for 2005). Mileage reimbursement for State employees is currently .31 per mile. This has not changed since early in this decade.

State law provides that the State's mileage reimbursement rate would be 18 cents per mile and that this rate would be adjusted biannually to reflect changes in gasoline prices. Annual Appropriations Acts have adjusted this mileage reimbursement rate. Currently, the rate is 31 cents per mile for FY 2004. It is necessary to establish the State's rate at the same level as the IRS rate (as adjusted periodically for inflation) in order to fairly compensate State officers and employees who drive their own vehicles on public business.

The bills repeal N.J.S.A.52:14-17.1a which provides that the \$0.18 per mile rate in the law would be adjusted twice each year to reflect changes in the price of gasoline.

STATUS: S872 is in the Senate State Government Committee. A263 is in the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Support

S873 Turner (D-15)

This bill requires cost analysis in certain cases when State department contracts out work.

STATUS: In the Senate State Government Committee.

Position: Support

S1137 Van Drew (D-1)

This bill clarifies that, with respect to public employee collective bargaining, all matters regarding the terms and conditions of the employment of public employees which are not specifically exempted from collective bargaining by State statute are mandatory subjects of collective bargaining. The bill specifies that the matters that are mandatory subjects of collective bargaining include, but are not limited to, any non-exempted matter which has an impact on: compensation and benefits; work to be performed; work load and work obligation; hours and time of the work; performance evaluation; all aspects, criteria and conditions of transfer, assignment and reassignment; discipline and grievances; workplace safety and health; employment security and job retention; and the impact of privatization, contracting and outsourcing.

STATUS: Proposed for Introduction

Position: Support

Other Relevant Bills

A156 Merkt (R-25)

Provides that PERS members holding more than one position covered by PERS has to designate one position as the basis for enrollment.

Status: In the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Support

A350 Diegan (D-18)/Conners (D-7) /Prieto (D-32)

This bill increases to \$25,000 the maximum aggregate annual compensation a person receiving a retirement allowance (up from \$15,000) from the PERS may earn from one or more – PERS – covered public employment positions without being re-enrolled in the system.

STATUS: In the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Support

A698 Spencer (D-29)

This bill would provide that managed care entities offer an option permitting enrollees to use a health care provider of their choice. Also, the enrollee would be liable to be billed for 20% of the managed care entity's usual and customary payment for the benefit.

STATUS: In the Assembly Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee

Position: Support

A1141 Russo (R-40)

This bill prohibits business entities and professional business entities who contract with the State for goods or services in excess of \$17,500 from making contributions of money or any other thing of value to any candidate for, or the holder of, any public office having ultimate responsibility for the award of the contract, or to any political party committee. Under the bill, a "business entity" is defined as an individual, an individual's spouse, or any child living at home, and any person, firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, organization or association. A "professional business entity" is a business entity which provides services by individuals who are required to be professionally licensed under the laws or regulations of this State. The bill also places annual limits on the amount of money that an entity and principals of those entities – defined in the bill as anyone who owns 10% or more of the equity of the entity and partners and officers employed by the entity – can contribute to a candidate for State public office or a political party committee. For a business entity, the limit is \$5,000 to all candidates for Governor or the Legislature and office holders with ultimate responsibility for the award of the contract and to all political party committees, including legislative leadership committees. For a professional business entity, the limit is \$250 each for any purpose to a candidate for Governor or the Legislature and \$500 to all political party committees, including legislative leadership committees. The bill requires any business entity or professional business entity making a contribution to any candidate, committee or political party and which has received, in any calendar year, \$50,000 or more in contracts with the State or a county, to file an annual disclosure form with the Election Law Enforcement Commission setting forth all political contributions made by the entity during the 12 months prior to the reporting deadline.

STATUS: In the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Study

A1143 Russo (R-40)

This bill:

1. limits political campaign contributions by certain government contractors (sections 2 through 9);

- requires financial disclosure statements for certain Executive Branch and Legislative Branch members, officers and employees, and provides and changes certain ethics provisions for members of the Legislature (sections 10 through 20);
2. expands disclosure by legislative agents and lobbyists for activities that influence the promulgation of executive orders, the rendering of administrative determinations, the development, negotiation or award of State contracts, the issuance, denial or modification of permits, the imposition or modification of penalties, and the award of financial assistance (sections 21 through 26); and
 2. prohibits members of the Legislature and elected county and municipal officials from simultaneously holding another elective or appointive county or municipal office (sections 27 and 28).

STATUS: In the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Study

A1163 Oliver (D-34)/Greenstein (D-14)

This bill would provide up to 12 weeks of family leave for workers to care for sick family or to be at home with children during the first 12 months of birth or adoption. Leave benefits to care for ill family would be paid from Temporary Disability Insurance. While leave benefits for newborn and newly adopted children would be paid from Unemployment Insurance. Benefits available to workers under the TDI would be funded by a 0.01% tax on the first \$20,200 in annual earning. For either benefit, an employer may require that an employee use all sick or other fully paid leave benefits before receiving this leave. Or, that the 12 weeks of benefits be reduced by the number of days of the fully paid leave, and that the leave be taken during a single continuous period. The bill would also implement three changes in the State UI law, which would provide an immediate reduction in the UI taxes for employers and to minimize the likelihood of future UI increases.

STATUS: In the Assembly Labor Committee.

Position: Support

A1174 Oliver (D-34)

This bill would provide family temporary disability leave to family members.

STATUS: In the Assembly Labor Committee.

Position: Support

A1180 Oliver (D-34)

This bill would provide for school and medical family leave. It would allow an employee covered under the New Jersey Family Leave Act to have up to 48 hours of leave time during any 12 month period to attend or participate in school functions or activities of a child, or to accompany the child to routine medical or dental appointments.

STATUS: In the Assembly Labor Committee.

Position: Support

A1181 Oliver (D-34)/Albano (D-1)

This bill provides that, during the term of an existing collective bargaining agreement covering its employees, an employer is prohibited from entering into a subcontracting agreement which affects the employment of those employees. The bill defines "employer" to include any local or regional school district, educational services commission, jointure commission, county special services school district, county college, State college, college or university under the authority of the Commission on Higher Education, or board or commission under the authority of the Commissioner of Education or the State Board of Education.

Following the term of a collective bargaining agreement, an employer is permitted to enter into a

subcontracting agreement only if the employer:

a. provides written notice to both the majority representative of employees in each collective bargaining unit and to the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission at least 90 days prior to any effort by the employer to seek the subcontracting agreement; and

b. offers the majority representative the opportunity to meet and discuss the decision to subcontract and negotiate over its impact.

Under current law, an employer has a duty to negotiate a successor agreement. Given compliance by the employer with subparagraphs a. and b. above, the bill provides that failure to reach a successor agreement does not preclude the employer from subcontracting.

With certain exceptions, the bill makes all actions of an employer regarding subcontracting mandatory subjects of negotiations. Failure to negotiate would subject the employer to an unfair labor practice charge by the majority representative.

Each employee replaced or displaced because of a subcontracting agreement would retain all previously acquired seniority and would have recall rights when the subcontracting terminates.

The bills provide that an employer who violates the act has committed an unfair labor practice and may be subject to an unfair labor practice charge with the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission, under which the employee may be entitled to a remedy including, but not limited to: reinstatement, back pay, back benefits, back emoluments, tenure and seniority credit, and attorney's fees.

Status: In the Assembly Labor Committee.

Position: Support

A1183 Oliver (D-34)

This bill would allow TPAF and PERS members to purchase up to one year of credit for official child-care leave without pay granted for the care of a natural or adopted child.

STATUS: In the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Support

A1360 Conoway (D-7)

This bill would prohibit a health insurance carrier which offers a managed care plan that provides benefits or health care services, as applicable, for the purchase of prescription drugs from denying coverage for a maintenance medication prescribed by a covered person's physician for the covered person's chronic condition because of a change in the person's pharmaceutical benefits that results solely from a change in the covered person's employer-provided health benefits plan or the pharmacy benefits manager for that plan, either of which is initiated by the employer or the carrier, if:

- the covered person was taking the medication prior to the date of the change in the covered person's health benefits plan or the pharmacy benefits manager for that plan; and
- the covered person's new health benefits plan, or health benefits plan under the new pharmacy benefits manager, as applicable, provides coverage for that class of drugs.

The requirements of this bill would apply to hospital, medical and health service corporations, small employer and group health insurers, health maintenance organizations and prepaid prescription service organizations. The bill takes effect on the 180th day after enactment and applies to policies and contracts issued or renewed on or after the effective date.

STATUS: In the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Position: Support

A1440 O'Scanlon (R-12)

Prohibits enrollment in PERS of public employee who is also public contractor; requires member to designate only one position as basis of enrollment.

Status: In the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Support

S837 Ciesla (R-10)

This bill would authorize that any employee, covered under New Jersey's Family Leave Act, to take up to 24 hours in family leave time during any 12 months period if they have a child with special needs enrolled in a public school.

STATUS: In the Senate Labor Committee.

Position: Support

A1535 Greenstein (D-14)/Scalera (D-36)

These bills amend existing law to clarify that vested members of TPAF, PERS and ABP will have a non-forfeitable right to the post-retirement medical benefits provided by law upon attainment of 25 years of service credit. The post-retirement medical benefits would be at the same or substantially equal level to that provided by law at the time the member attains five years of service credit.

STATUS: In the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Support

A1647 Giblin (D-34)

This bill would require a party bidding on, or performing a State contract to provide employee health care benefits for any employee working for an average of at least 20 hours a week. The provisions would not apply to a person who is self-employed or doing business as a sole proprietor.

STATUS: In the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Support

A1650 Giblin (D-34)

This bill establishes procedures for any State agency regarding a privatization contract, which is defined as an agreement between the agency and a private business entity in which the entity provides services which are substantially similar to, and in lieu of, services previously provided, or that could be provided by agency employees.

STATUS: In the Assembly State Government Committee.

Position: Study

A1837 Conway (D-7)

This bill would authorize that any employee, covered under New Jersey's Family Leave Act, to take up to 24 hours in family leave time during any 12 months period if they have a child with special needs enrolled in a public school.

STATUS: In the Assembly Labor Committee

Position: Support

A2073 McKeon (D-27)

This bill would amend the laws requiring parity in mental health insurance benefits for biologically-based mental illness to also include parity for benefits for posttraumatic stress disorder.

STATUS: Proposed for Introduction

Position: Support

S421 VanDrew (D-1)

Requires redirection in number of positions in State service; establishes procedures to control creation of new State positions and filling of vacancies.

Status: In the Senate State Government Committee

Position: Oppose