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Uniformed Firefighters Association



OF GREATER NEW YORK
Local 94 I.A.F.F. AFL-CIO

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

An act to amend the Military law, in relation to the salary of firefighters who are engaged in the performance of ordered military duty.

A9873 – Introduced by Member of the Assembly Lancman
S6772 – Introduced by Member of the Senate Golden

The Uniformed Firefighters Association, representing more than 22,000 active and retired Firefighters and Fire Marshals, strongly supports this legislation, which would alter the existing repayment plans of members of the New York City Fire Department who are engaged in the performance of ordered military duty. It provides a significant discount to the requirement for repayment.

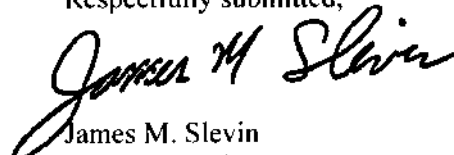
New York City like other municipalities has a program that pays its employees who perform ordinary National Guard and Reserve military service up to 30 days per year, a period extended by 60 days for employees ordered to active duty in connection with the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Although state statute and executive order establishes uniform rules for all localities to follow when it comes to employees performing reserve duty, no statute or regulation establishes uniform requirements or rules for a system of differential pay for employees ordered to active military service for durations of longer than 60 days, such as those employees mobilized for Iraq or Afghanistan. Each locality is free to adopt or not adopt a system of differential pay for such employees, and is completely free to adopt its own system of rules for administering such a program.

New York City's Pay system has resulted in hardship in some cases, because of the way the repayment system is applied. The City's differential Pay Program is structured in such way the City employees are often required to pay back a significant amount of money when they return from deployment. These problems are resolved in the current bill.

The Uniformed Firefighters Association believes all requirements for repayment should have been eliminated. Short of that however, this legislation which was negotiated and agreed to by the city is a fair alternative to complete elimination of the debt. We urge passage of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,


James M. Slevin
Legislative Chairman