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 T H E C O U N C I L

REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

JEFF BAKER, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

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COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

#### Hon. Andrew Cohen, Chair

June 13, 2019

**By: Council Member Cohen**

**Preconsidered SLR 12: S.1966-A (Gounardes)**

**A.3593-A (Pheffer Amato)**

**TITLE:** AN ACT to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the medical board of the New York City employees’ retirement system.

**BACKGROUND:**

Currently, the medical board of the New York City Employees’ Retirement System (“NYCERS”) is made up of three original physicians: one appointee from the Commissioner of the Department of Health (“DOH”), one appointee from the Commissioner of the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (“DCAS”), and one from the board itself. Each appointee may also appoint between one and four alternative physicians for when an applicant comes before the board with a specialized medical issue that is beyond the scope of practice of the original three. An alternative board may be formed consisting of three alternative physician appointees, or a combination of alternate and original appointees – so long as one of the physicians on this alternative board has been appointed by DOH, one by DCAS, and one by the original medical board. This legislation increases the number of physicians, to help expedite the process by which the medical board evaluates NYCERS members applying for disability pensions.

**PROPOSED LEGISLATION:**

Section one of the legislation amends subdivision a of the New York City Administrative Code section 13-123 to grant NYCERS medical board, the commissioner of DOH and Commissioner of DCAS up to eight (8) appointments for physicians to serve on the medical board. This section provides that any three physicians from this pool of appointments may form a group to evaluate applicants for disability pensions.

Section two is the effective date.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

See Council Finance Division fiscal impact statement.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

Immediately.