

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

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June 18, 2019
Start: 1:21 p.m.
Recess: 1:26 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: ANDREW COHEN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Andy King
Karen Koslowitz

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

2 [sound check] [pause] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON COHEN: Exactly. Alright,
4 good morning. It's still morning, yes. Good morning.
5 It's not morning. It's good afternoon. [background
6 comments] Alright, correction number one, it's no
7 more morning. Good afternoon, and to today's
8 hearing. My name is Andrew Cohen, and I am the Chair
9 of the Committee on State and Federal Legislation.
10 On today's agenda we will be considering two state
11 legislative resolutions. First, I'd like to
12 introduce the members of the committee, and we have a
13 full house, Karen Koslowitz, Robert Cornegy, Rafael
14 Espinal, and Andy King. The first State Legislative
15 Resolution this committee will be considering and
16 voting on today is Senate Bill S.5246-A and Assembly
17 Bill A.7616-A. This bill is an act to amend the
18 general municipal law in relation to disabilities of
19 certain retired firefighters caused by cancer. This
20 bill seeks to provide parity for members of the FDNY
21 to other fire departments across the state of New
22 York by providing a five-year look back window for
23 retirees who are diagnosed with Lymphatic Digestive
24 Hematological, urinary, neurological breast,
25 reproductive or prostate cancer or Melanoma with the

2 same presumption of evidence for disability benefits.

3 The final bill this committee will be considering

4 and voting on today is Senate Bill S.5903-A and

5 Assembly Bill A.7620-A. This bill and act will amend

6 the general municipal law in relation to allowing

7 certain members of the New York City Police Pension

8 Fund to receive membership—a membership date in the

9 New York City Police Pension Fund attributable to

10 service in the titles of Police Cadet Program or

11 Police Cadet Program II in the New York City Police

12 Department Cadet Program. Members of the New York

13 City Cadet Corps are eligible to join the New York

14 City Employee Retirement System. Cadets that served

15 prior to 2012 were unfairly denied the opportunity to

16 join NYCERS when they served in the Cadet Corps. As

17 a result these cadets not only lost out on the

18 opportunity to receive pension credit, but those who

19 went on to become police officers after July 1, 2009

20 were denied the opportunity to become Tier 2 members

21 of the Police Pension system, and instead replaced

22 either with either Tier 3 or Tier 3-R of that pension

23 system, both of which provide reduced benefits. This

24 legislation seeks to correct this inequity. At this

25 moment I'd like to open the committee meeting to any

2 of our members who would like to make a statement.

3 Please.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I was going to
5 reserve it to—to explain in my vote, but thank you
6 for the opportunity. I think that I am so happy and
7 pleased to be a part of a body that would prioritize
8 the needs of our uniformed officers the firefighters.
9 This is a long time coming, and the cadet bill. This
10 demonstrates our commitment to making sure that
11 there's parity for people who put themselves in
12 harm's way every single day, both the Fire Department
13 and both the Police Department. So, I'm happy to be
14 able to vote today in favor of these bills, and again
15 it's a long time coming. I want to thank the chair.
16 I want to thank the Speaker for prioritizing this. I
17 think that is a—this is a very important
18 demonstration of our commitment to our uniformed
19 workforce in the City of New York. Thank you very
20 much, Mr. Chair.

21 CHAIRPERSON COHEN: Thank you. Anybody
22 else? Alright, at this time I'm going to ask—well I
23 guess I'm going to open the hearing to any witnesses
24 who wish to testify on behalf—on this new messages

2 (sic) today. We don't have anybody who signed up,
3 right.

4 MALE SPEAKER: No.

5 CHAIRPERSON COHEN: Going once, going
6 twice. Alright, alright. So with that I'm going to
7 ask Billy Martin to call the roll.

8 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.

9 Roll call vote Committee on State and Federal
10 Legislation. Both items are coupled. Chair Cohen.

11 CHAIRPERSON COHEN: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Cornegy.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [off mic] I vote
14 aye.

15 CLERK: Espinal.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Koslowitz.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I happy vote
19 aye.

20 CLERK: King.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Congratulations and
22 I vote aye.

23 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the
24 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
25 both items have been adopted by the committee.

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2 CHAIRPERSON COHEN: This concludes this
3 haring. [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date June 30, 2019