



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Res 1351-2012, **Version:** \*

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### Res. No. 1351

Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass A.9869 and S.6868, which directs the State to reimburse the City of New York for the health insurance and supplemental benefits of New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation retirees.

By Council Members Koslowitz, Dromm, Rose, Fidler, Rivera, Palma, Barron, Brewer, Chin, Ferreras, Gentile, Gonzalez, Jackson, James, Koo, Koppell, Lander, Mendez, Van Bramer, Vann, Williams, Wills, Rodriguez and Ulrich

Whereas, The New York State Legislature is considering A.9869 and S.6868, an act to amend the racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breeding law, in relation to the provision of health insurance and supplemental benefits to retirees of the New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation (the Corporation) and making an appropriation therefor; and

Whereas, These bills would amend the racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breeding law to apply to all present and future retirees of the Corporation who are eligible to participate in and receive benefits from any City authorized health insurance or welfare benefit program; and

Whereas, Provision of the aforementioned benefits will be contingent upon the State

reimbursing the City or its designee and applicable welfare benefit programs for the actual cost of benefits; and

Whereas, Prior to the closure of the Corporation on December 7, 2010, retirees of the Corporation received health insurance through the New York City employees health insurance plan pursuant to Chapter 115 of the Laws of 2008; and

Whereas, Additionally, some retirees received supplemental benefits such as prescription drug, optical and dental through applicable welfare benefit programs; and

Whereas, Former New York State Governor Paterson issued an executive order to allow the Corporation to file for bankruptcy; and

Whereas, After this executive order was issued, employees of the Corporation made significant concessions, including voluntary and early retirement with reduced pensions with the promise of health benefits; and

Whereas, Employees who retired from the Corporation prior to its closing received assurance from the State that their health insurance and supplemental benefits would withstand the closure; and

Whereas, After the Corporation was closed, retirees were notified that those benefits would cease; and

Whereas, This action left nearly 800 retirees and their dependents without health insurance or supplemental benefits; and

Whereas, These employees therefore experienced and continue to endure an additional financial burden which they agreed to accept in exchange for the promise of continued health benefits; and

Whereas, The State refuses to acknowledge its obligation to absorb the cost of the aforementioned benefits; and

Whereas, The State's refusal to provide health insurance and supplemental benefits to the retirees of the Corporation represents its failure to satisfy a commitment that the State implied

would be covered; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to pass A.9869 and S.6868, which directs the State to reimburse the City of New York for the health insurance and supplemental benefits of New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation retirees.

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