

## Legislative report 11/2017

To bring you up-to-date on legislation.

Minimum Pension Bump Up (A.06603/S.5329) almost passed the Assembly unanimously but did not make it to the floor in the Senate

Improve Pension Cola(A. 06045/S.03306) was amended down from \$25,000 to \$21,000. Referred to committees in both houses. At the lower amount this would still cost billions to the Public Pension Systems.

One ethics law was pass (A.10742/S.8160) firms, issue-advocacy groups and lobbyist must report findings sources plus restrict independent committees communicate with and give cash to candidates.

Second constitution issue on ballot would amend to provide for reduction of pension of a public officer convicted of a crime. Recommend a "YES" vote on this amendment.

The Governor signed a bill (A.8258-A/s.06676) relates to developing guidelines for the identification and reporting of suspected neglect and abuse and maltreatment in health care settings.

New York Health Act (A.4738/S.4840) universal comprehensive health coverage on NYS passed Assembly for the third time but failed in the Senate for the third time. Our association questions how this would affect anyone that has insurance through your individual school. Will be exploring that issue.

Constitutional Convention: Get out the "NO" votes. Latest Siena Poll of October 6, 2017, - 44% will vote "Yes" , 39% will vote "No", 17% still undecided. This will be on the back of the ballot as the first issue with the other amendments.

The third issue is to amend the Constitution authorizing the use of Forest Preserve Land for Specific Purposes. Land would be swapped by towns, villages, and counties to address specific health and safety concerns. It would also allow bicycle trails and certain Public utility lines to be located within these things of specific highways. Recommending a "Yes" vote.

We are also supporting the fight to block the Charter Schools Committee allowing the certification of unqualified teachers.

## Federal Legislation

Janus vs AFSCME latest case challenging the right of public-sector unions to collect fees to cover costs associated with collective bargaining.

Medicare??? Who knows for sure what the issue will be tomorrow?

You'll be getting a new Medicare card between April 2018 - April 2019.

Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act (HR.242/s.41) Referred to committees in both houses. Would allow the Sec.of Health & Human Services to negotiate covered Part D drug prices for Medicare Beneficiaries, such as the Veterans Administration has been able to do.

Social Security Expansion Act (HR.1114/S.427) increase to the average beneficiary of \$800 per year. Change the cost-of-living calculations to reflect the living expenses of Social Security beneficiaries. Referred to committees.

Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act (HR.1421/S.568) Observation vs Inpatient coverage under Medicare. Referred to committees. However, Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice (MOON) must be provided with reason(s) an outpatient is receiving observation services and the implication of such status with regards to Medicare cost sharing and coverage for post-hospitalization skilled nursing facility services.

Tax Reform Plan: We'll be watching. Removal of the real estate, state income and other state and local taxes from federal tax deduction will unfairly burden New Yorker.

*Bill Lesniak*