



**NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
I.L.A. – A.F.L. – C.I.O.**

November 14, 2019

TO: ALL SCOA MEMBERS

FROM: PATRICK CULLEN, SCOA PRESIDENT

RE: BILL S3675/ A4432

ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2019, I MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNSEL TO THE GOVERNOR AS WELL AS THE DIVISION OF THE BUDGET IN ALBANY. THE MEETING WAS SCHEDULED AFTER THE GOVERNOR'S COUNSEL RECEIVED A MEMO OF SUPPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ABOVE REFERENCED BILLS. THESE BILLS ARE THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY VERSIONS OF THE ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT BILLS (OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE ¾ BILLS). THIS MEETING REPRESENTED A POINT IN THIS PROCESS FORMERLY NOT MET IN YEARS PAST. AT THIS MEETING, THE MERITS OF THIS BILL WERE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH INCLUDING DISPARITY BETWEEN SIMILAR BENEFITS AFFORDED OTHER PEACE OFFICERS. THE HAZARDS WE FACE AND OUR PROTECTIONS UNDER THE LAW DO NOT MATCH UP AND THIS WAS A MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. AS WITH ALL BILLS, THE FISCAL IMPACT WAS EXAMINED AND DEBATED, A STICKING POINT WHICH HAS BEEN PROBLEMATIC FOR THIS LEGISLATION IN THE PAST HAS NOW BECOME CLEARER BOTH THROUGH THE AGENCY'S MEMO OF SUPPORT AND CONFIRMED BY THE STATE'S OWN ACTUARY, WHERE ALL AGREE THE IMPACT IS NEGLIGIBLE. THE MEETING ENDED WITH CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE TABLE.

I DO NOT SEND THIS UPDATE IN ORDER TO BUILD ANY HOPES ABOUT THIS LEGISLATION WHICH WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR OVER THE LAST SEVEN YEARS, BUT TO SAY WE ARE PROGRESSING ON SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT HAVE POSED OBSTACLES IN THE PAST. GOVERNOR CUOMO IS THE ULTIMATE ARBITOR ON ALL LEGISLATION AND MAY STILL VETO THIS VERSION OF THE BILL. IT WILL NOT BE DUE TO LACK OF EFFORT ON SEEING THIS THROUGH. WHEN MORE DETAILS AVAIL THEMSELVES, I WILL PASS IT ON IMMEDIATELY TO ALL COMMANDS AND OUR WEBSITE www.nysscoa.org