

### **Transportation**

***S8119C Sponsored by Senator Comrie/M of A Dinowitz*** -- Extends the eligibility for paratransit services within the state and city of New York during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to August 31, 2020, temporarily suspends In-Person Eligibility Assessments through August 31, 2020, extends through at least July 31, 2020, and all paratransit authorities in New York State shall suspend shared rides and shall instead dispatch and route individual paratransit trips, to the maximum extent possible.

### **Unemployment**

***S8275A Sponsored by Senator Martinez/M of A Rosenthal*** -- Suspends the forfeiture of unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 state of emergency.

### **Utilities**

***S8113A Sponsored by Senator Parker/Rules (M of A Mosley)*** -- Issues a moratorium on utility termination of services during periods of pandemics and/or state of emergencies. (Note: Chapter Amendment Passed – S8428).



## **Legislature Passes Bill to Provide Death Benefits to Families of Fallen Public Employees**

### ***Agreed-Upon Bill Gives Accidental Death Benefits to Families of Members Who Die from COVID-19***

Weeks of negotiations between labor organizations, legislators, the City, and the State came together last night with the passage of legislation to establish a line of duty accidental death benefit for families of public employees who die from COVID-19.

Introduced by Senator Andrew Gounardes and the Assembly Rules Committee (at the Request of Assemblyman Peter Abbate), Governor's Program Bill #11 provides accidental death benefits to the statutory beneficiaries of all public employees (state and local) who worked on or after March 1, 2020, contracted COVID-19, and died of COVID-19 on or before December 31, 2020. Over 100 members of the Assembly sponsored the legislation. The bill passed with a Message of the Necessity from Governor Andrew Cuomo.

The legislation applies to the statutory beneficiaries of public employees enrolled:

- in the New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS);
- in the New York State Police and Fire Retirement System (NYSPFRS);
- as tier III members in the New York State and NYC public retirement systems;



- as tier IV, V, and VI members of the NYSERS, the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS), the New York City Employees Retirement System (NYCERS), the New York City Teachers' Retirement System (NYCTRS), and the New York City Board of Education Retirement System (NYCBERS);
- as tier I and II members of the NYSTRS;
- as tier I and II members of NYCBERS;
- as tier I and II members of NYCERS;
- in the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Retirement Plan;
- as tier I and II members of the New York City Police Pension Fund;
- as tier I and II members of the New York City Fire Pension Fund;
- as tier I and II members of NYCTRS.

Statutory beneficiaries will receive an accidental death benefit with the following limited proof: (1) The employee worked on or after March 1, 2020. (2) The employee worked in person, whether at the normal place of work or at another assigned place of work. (3) The employee contracted COVID-19. (4) The employee died on or before December 31, 2020. (5) COVID-19 caused or contributed to the member's death.

The employee's statutory beneficiary does not need to prove that the employee contracted COVID-19 at the work place. The required proof is a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant diagnosed COVID-19 or a diagnostic test confirmed COVID-19; and either the death certificate states that COVID-19 caused or contributed to death or a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant certifies that COVID-19 caused or contributed to the death. Once the statutory beneficiary demonstrates the proof above, the accidental death benefit is mandatory.

The bill would take effect immediately upon signature by Governor Andrew Cuomo and would be deemed to have been in effect on March 1, 2020 and expires on December 31, 2020.

Copies of the legislation may be accessed: [S8427 by Senator Gounardes](#)  
[A10528 by Rules \(M of A Abbate\)](#)



## Executive Orders by the Governor

### **Executive Order 202.33** (May 28<sup>th</sup>)

Authorizes private businesses to deny entrance to people who do not wear a mask or a face covering.