



NYSCOPBA Applauds Death Gamble Legislation Passage

Union Urges Governor Cuomo to Sign Legislation Into Law

For Immediate Release

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Albany, NY – NYSCOPBA, who represents 20,000 current correction officers and sergeants, applauded the State Senate and Assembly for passing legislation that would protect families of correction officers and sergeants who die after becoming retirement eligible.

For the second consecutive year the legislature overwhelmingly passed the “Death Gamble” bill that would ensure that the beneficiaries of any correction officer or sergeant who is retirement eligible, yet passes away prior to retirement, receive the pension benefits that the member would have received if they had retired in lieu of continuing to serve the people of New York State.

With so many members eligible to retire, NYSCOPBA made it a priority to protect the hard earned and well-deserved pensions that the families of members deserve.

“The small financial impact this important legislation will have pales in comparison to the need to provide for the families of men and women who went above and beyond to protect and serve the citizens of New York. Men and women who dedicated 25 plus years, worked long hours, walked one of the toughest beats in the country, yet the Governor failed to recognize their sacrifice.” – stated Michael Powers, NYSCOPBA President.

Governor Cuomo vetoed the 2017 legislation in December.

“I would like to thank the legislators who stood side by side with us to get this critical piece of legislation passed, especially Senator Patty Ritchie and Assemblywoman Addie Jenne, who sponsored the legislation. They understand the dangerous work that our members perform on a daily basis to protect all New Yorkers. As the Governor concentrates on providing parolees with voting rights, he should take the time to appreciate the men and women who put their lives on the line every day. We strongly encourage him to sign this legislation into law .” – stated Powers