



Retired Public Employees Association

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S.1740, by Senator Golden
A.3491, by Assemblyman DenDekker

AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to deductions for retiree organization dues

The **Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA)** supports this bill which would allow a retired member of the NYS Employees Retirement System to sign and file with the Comptroller a dues deduction authorization from the member's pension for dues in a not-for-profit membership organization of retired public employees. The Comptroller would be authorized to make such deduction from retirement allowances.

The only way a retired member can pay membership dues in such a retiree organization is to mail a check for their dues or otherwise pay in cash. The pension deduction authorized by this legislation would be completely voluntary as a matter of convenience to public employee retirees. Such deduction could be revoked at any time by the retired member.

Currently, a retiree may elect to have dues associated with such retiree's membership in an employee organization that is certified or organized under the Taylor Law and with such retiree's participation in a benefit plan sponsored by such employee organization deducted from retirement allowances. This legislation would not affect such authorization.

Since retired members of the NYS Employees Retirement System have no rights to bargain collectively pursuant to the Taylor Law, they often join non-profit membership organizations, such as RPEA, to advocate for the preservation of their pension and health insurance benefits which they earned during the course of their public service. Retirees should be given the same convenience in paying their membership dues to these organizations as they have for paying their dues to organizations that previously represented them while employed.

For these reasons, **RPEA supports this bill.**