

Legislation Meeting Agenda



Committee Chair: Colin Smith

800 Michaelan Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Monday, May 23, 2022

1:00 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with the Committee on Health

MINUTES APPROVAL

May 16, 2022 at 1:00 PM Minutes

May 18, 2022 at 3:00 PM Minutes

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[2022-257](#)

HON. BORGIA, SHIMSKY, BARR, JOHNSON, ALVARADO, SMITH, PIERCE, GASHI, BOYKIN, PARKER, WILLIAMS JOHNSON, MAHER, CLEMENTS, WOODSON-SAMUELS - PH - Clinic Access Legislation

A RESOLUTION to set a Public Hearing on "A LOCAL LAW adding Chapter 425 to the Laws of Westchester County to ensure safe access to reproductive health care facilities." [Public Hearing set for _____, 2022 at _____ .m.] LOCAL LAW INTRO 2022-258.

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: COMMITTEES ON LEGISLATION AND HEALTH

Guests: Department of Law - John Nonna, County Attorney, Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Chief Deputy County Attorney, Shawna MacLeod, Senior Assistant County Attorney; All Women's Healthcare - Constance Considine, Chief Medical Administrator; WCLA Choice Matters - Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, President; Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic - Vincent Russell, President & CEO

[2022-258](#)

HON. BORGIA, SHIMSKY, BARR, JOHNSON, ALVARADO, SMITH, PIERCE, GASHI, BOYKIN, PARKER, WILLIAMS JOHNSON, MAHER, CLEMENTS, WOODSON-SAMUELS - LL - Proposed Clinic Access Legislation

A LOCAL LAW adding Chapter 425 to the Laws of Westchester County to ensure safe access to reproductive health care facilities.

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: COMMITTEES ON LEGISLATION AND HEALTH

Guests: Department of Law - John Nonna, County Attorney, Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Chief Deputy County Attorney, Shawna MacLeod, Senior Assistant County Attorney; All Women's Healthcare - Constance Considine, Chief Medical Administrator; WCLA Choice Matters - Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, President; Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic - Vincent Russell, President & CEO

[2022-291](#) **RES - HOME RULE A9670-S8448**

A New York State Home Rule Resolution requesting the enactment of Assembly Bill No. 9670/Senate Bill No. 8448 entitled "AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to providing certain death benefits to correction officers, correction officer-sergeants, correction officer-captains, assistant wardens, associate wardens or wardens employed by Westchester County."

Guests: Department of Law - John Nonna, County Attorney

II. OTHER BUSINESS**III. RECEIVE & FILE****ADJOURNMENT**

TO: BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee recommends passage of “A Local Law adding Chapter 425 to the Laws of Westchester County to ensure safe access to reproductive health care facilities.”

Your Committee finds that the right to access reproductive health care facilities and the right to obtain reproductive health care services, treatments, and/or procedures, are essential personal rights protected by state and federal law. Equally, the right to peaceably protest and express one’s views is an essential right protected by state and federal law. Such actions include, but are not limited to, the right to speak, march, demonstrate, picket, pray, associate with others in expressive behavior, or engage in other activity protected by the First Amendment.

Your Committee notes that concerns have been raised about individuals or groups of individuals who may exceed the boundaries of lawful First Amendment expression by engaging in activities that physically prevent individuals from accessing reproductive health care facilities or obtaining reproductive health care services; or by engaging in activities that unlawfully harass or intimidate individuals trying to access such facilities and services. In fact, for example, on March 17, 2022, three men were found guilty of unlawfully trespassing at All Women's Health & Medical Services, a reproductive health care facility in White Plains, in order to prevent patients from obtaining reproductive health care services on November 27, 2021. These defendants are affiliated with Red Rose Rescue, an anti-abortion activist group that has carried out similar unlawful actions all across the country. Indeed, the perpetrators convicted in White Plains have also apparently been involved in prior similar conduct—each has now been convicted multiple

times of such conduct, and has faced (or is currently facing) criminal charges in some of the following places: Nassau County, New York; Michigan; Pennsylvania; Washington, D.C.; and Virginia. Such activities can impede access to reproductive health care facilities not only for those seeking to obtain reproductive health care services, treatments, and/or procedures, but for providers of those services as well.

Your Committee finds that current law does not adequately protect reproductive health care facilities, and those who work in, seek access to, or obtain services from such facilities. Therefore, your Committee has determined that it is appropriate to enact legislation to prohibit interference with accessing reproductive health care facilities and obtaining reproductive health care services within the parameters established by precedent of the United States Supreme Court and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, in order to: protect and promote the public health, safety, and welfare; ensure order; protect freedom of access to reproductive health care facilities; protect the freedom to obtain reproductive health care services; promote the free flow of traffic in the public way; advance medical privacy and the well-being of patients seeking access to reproductive health care facilities and obtaining reproductive health care services; and safeguard private property.

Your Committee is advised that this proposed Local Law is modeled upon various federal, state, and municipal laws, including the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act of 1994 (“FACE”), 18 U.S.C. § 248; the New York State Clinic Access Act, N.Y. Penal L. §§ 240.70-240.71, N.Y. Civil Rights L. 79-m; the New York City Access to Reproductive Health Care Facilities Law, N.Y.C. Admin. Code §§ 10-1001, *et seq.*; and Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-9-

122(3) (1999) (“Preventing passage to and from a health care facility – engaging in prohibited activities near facility”).

Your Committee is further advised that this proposed Local Law, if adopted, would protect persons seeking access to reproductive health care facilities and services both within facilities as well as outside said facilities. The Local Law would prohibit the use or threat of force against, physical obstruction or blocking of, or interference with any person seeking to access reproductive health care facilities or obtaining reproductive health care services. This proposed Local Law would also make it unlawful for any person to strike, shove, restrain, grab, kick, or otherwise subject to unwanted physical contact, another person seeking access to or exiting from, or obtaining services from, reproductive health care facilities. The proposed law also prohibits engaging in a course of conduct or repeatedly committing acts within 25 feet of the premises a reproductive health care facility when such behavior places another person in reasonable fear of physical harm, and prohibits following and harassing another person within 25 feet of the premises of a reproductive health care facility. As used in the relevant violation section, the meaning of “harass” is derived, in part, from New York State Penal Law § 240.26(3) and related interpretations in the case law. In addition, this Local Law will make it unlawful to physically damage or interfere with the operations of any reproductive health care facility. Further, the proposed Local Law provides that within a 100-foot radius from any door to a reproductive health care facility, no individual can, in the public way, knowingly approach within eight feet of another person, unless that other person consents, for the purpose of passing a leaflet, handbill, food, or liquid to; displaying a sign to; or engaging in oral protest, education,

or counseling with such other person. This provision applies equally to all, regardless of the content of their speech.

Your Committee notes that the proposed legislation will, if adopted, provide for both criminal penalties and civil remedies for violations of its provisions. Specifically, violation of this Local Law would be a misdemeanor, punishable by fines and/or imprisonment; and aggrieved persons would be authorized to institute civil actions for injunctive relief, damages, attorney's fees, and costs, in any court of competent jurisdiction, including state courts. In addition, the County Attorney would be authorized to commence civil actions for equitable relief.

Your Committee finds that this legislation would expressly ensure that First Amendment rights regarding freedom of speech are protected while, at the same time, provide relief for persons whose rights are interfered with in seeking or delivering reproductive health care services. Indeed, this Local Law does not prohibit conduct normally protected by the First Amendment. However, "true threats" and expression that takes place while trespassing on private property are not protected under the First Amendment. The right to engage in legitimate First Amendment activity does not shield individuals who trespass on private property or otherwise run afoul of the law. And to the extent any First Amendment conduct is affected at all, the law acts as a modest and reasonable time, place, and manner restriction that leaves ample room to communicate messages through speech and other protected First Amendment activity.

Finally, your Committee is informed that this Local Law does not meet the definition of an action under SEQRA and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 14, 2022, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators.

Your Committee recommends adoption of this Local Law.

Dated: , 2022
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

SCM-05/16/2022

RESOLUTION NO. ____ – 2022

RESOLVED, that this Board hold a public hearing pursuant to Section 209.141(4) of the Laws of Westchester County on Local Law Intro. No. ____ - 2022, entitled “A Local Law adding Chapter 425 to the Laws of Westchester County to ensure safe access to reproductive health care facilities.” The public hearing will be held at __.m. on the ____ day of _____, 2022, in the Chambers of the Board of Legislators, 8th Floor, Michaelian Office Building, White Plains, New York. The Clerk of the Board shall cause notice of the time and date of such hearing to be published at least once in one or more newspapers published in the County of Westchester and selected by the Clerk of the Board for that purpose in the manner and time required by law.

LOCAL LAW INTRO. NO. - 2022

A LOCAL LAW adding Chapter 425 to the Laws of Westchester County to ensure safe access to reproductive health care facilities.

BE IT ENACTED by the County Board of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. A new Chapter 425 is hereby added to the Laws of Westchester to read as follows:

CHAPTER 425

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ACCESS ACT

Sec. 425.01. Short title.

Sec. 425.11. Legislative intent.

Sec. 425.21. Definitions.

Sec. 425.31. Prohibited conduct.

Sec. 425.41. Violations.

Sec. 425.51. Civil cause of action.

Sec. 425.61. Civil action by County of Westchester.

Sec. 425.71. Joint and several liability.

Sec. 425.81. Construction.

Sec. 425.91. Severability.

Sec. 425.01. Short title.

This title shall be known as and may be cited as the “Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Act.”

Sec. 425.11. Legislative intent.

The County Board of Legislators finds that the right to access reproductive health care facilities and the right to obtain reproductive health care services, treatments, and/or procedures

are essential personal rights protected by state and federal law. Equally, the right to peaceably protest and express one's views is an essential right protected by state and federal law. Such actions include, but are not limited to, the right to speak, march, demonstrate, picket, pray, associate with others in expressive behavior, or engage in other activity protected by the First Amendment.

The County Board is aware that there are individuals and/or groups of individuals who may exceed the boundaries of lawful First Amendment expression by engaging in activities that prevent individuals from accessing reproductive health care facilities or obtaining reproductive health care services, treatments, or procedures, or by engaging in activities that unlawfully harass or intimidate individuals trying to access such facilities and services. Such activities unlawfully interfere with both the operators of reproductive health care facilities and all individuals seeking free entrance to and egress from such facilities.

The County Board finds that current law does not adequately protect reproductive health care facilities, and those who work in, seek access to, or obtain services from such facilities. Therefore, the County Board of Legislators has determined that it is appropriate to enact legislation to prohibit interference with accessing reproductive health care facilities and obtaining reproductive health care services, in order to: protect and promote the public health, safety, and welfare; ensure order; protect the freedom of access to reproductive health care facilities; protect the freedom to obtain reproductive health care services; promote the free flow of traffic in the public way; advance medical privacy and the well-being of patients seeking access to reproductive health care facilities and obtaining reproductive health care services; and safeguard private property. This proposed Local Law protects persons seeking access to reproductive health care facilities and services both inside facilities as well as outside said

facilities. The County Board finds that this Local Law does not prohibit conduct normally protected by the First Amendment. However, “true threats” and expression that takes place while trespassing on private property are not protected under the First Amendment. The right to engage in legitimate First Amendment activity does not shield individuals who trespass on private property or otherwise run afoul of the law. And to the extent any First Amendment conduct is affected by this Local Law at all, the law acts as a modest and reasonable time, place, and manner restriction that leaves ample room to communicate messages through speech and other protected First Amendment activity.

The County Board has further determined that persons harmed by such interfering conduct should be able to seek redress in the courts, including state courts, for injunctive relief, damages, and attorney’s fees and costs, and that the County of Westchester should be able to obtain appropriate injunctive relief under this Local Law.

Sec. 425.21. Definitions.

Whenever used in this Chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings indicated, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

- a. “Approach” shall mean to move nearer in distance to someone.
- b. “Eight (8) feet” shall be measured from the part of a person’s body that is nearest to the closest part of another person’s body, where the term “body” includes any natural or artificial extension of a person, including, but not limited to, an outstretched arm or hand-held sign.

- c. “Harass” shall mean to engage in a course of conduct or repeatedly commit acts that alarm or seriously annoy another person, where such conduct continues after a request to cease has been made.
- d. “Interfere with” shall mean to stop or to restrict a person’s freedom of movement.
- e. “Intimidate” shall mean to place a person in reasonable apprehension of physical injury to such person or to another person.
- f. “Invitee” shall mean an individual who enters another’s premises as a result of an express or implied invitation of the owner or occupant for their mutual gain or benefit.
- g. “Person” shall mean an individual, corporation, not-for-profit organization, partnership, association, group, or any other entity.
- h. “Physically obstruct or block” shall mean to physically hinder, restrain, or impede, or to attempt to physically hinder, restrain or impede, or to otherwise render ingress to or egress from, or render passage to or from the premises of a reproductive health care facility impassable, unreasonably difficult, or hazardous.
- i. “Premises of a reproductive health care facility” shall include the driveway, entrance, entryway, or exit of the reproductive health care facility, the building in which such facility is located, any parking lot in which the facility has an ownership or leasehold interest, and the entrance to any public parking lot that serves the reproductive health care facility and is located within one-hundred (100) feet of any door to that reproductive health care facility.
- j. “Reproductive health care facility” shall mean any building, structure, or place, or any portion thereof, at which licensed, certified, or otherwise legally authorized persons provide reproductive health care services.

- k. “Reproductive health care services” shall mean medical, surgical, counseling, or referral services relating to the human reproductive system, including services relating to pregnancy or the termination of a pregnancy.

Sec. 425.31. Prohibited conduct.

It shall be unlawful for any person to do the following:

- a. knowingly physically obstruct or block another person from entering into or exiting from the premises of a reproductive health care facility, in order to prevent that person from obtaining or rendering, or assisting in obtaining or rendering, medical treatment or reproductive health care services; or
- b. strike, shove, restrain, grab, kick, or otherwise subject to unwanted physical contact or injury any person seeking to legally enter or exit the premises of a reproductive health care facility; or
- c. knowingly follow and harass another person within twenty-five (25) feet of the premises of a reproductive health care facility; or
- d. knowingly engage in a course of conduct or repeatedly commit acts within twenty-five (25) feet of the premises of a reproductive health care facility when such behavior places another person in reasonable fear of physical harm, or attempt to do the same; or
- e. by force or threat of force, or by physically obstructing or blocking, knowingly injure, intimidate, or interfere with, or attempt to injure, intimidate, or interfere with, another person in order to discourage such other person or any other person or persons from obtaining or providing, or assisting in obtaining or providing, reproductive health care services; or

- f. by force or threat of force, or by physically obstructing or blocking, knowingly injure, intimidate, or interfere with, or attempt to injure, intimidate or interfere with, another person because such person was or is obtaining or providing reproductive health care services; or
- g. physically damage a reproductive health care facility so as to interfere with its operation, or attempt to do the same; or
- h. knowingly interfere with the operation of a reproductive health care facility, or attempt to do the same, by activities including, but not limited to, interfering with, or attempting to interfere with (i) medical procedures or treatments being performed at such reproductive health care facility; (ii) the delivery of goods or services to such reproductive health care facility; or (iii) persons inside the facility; or
- i. knowingly approach another person within eight (8) feet of such person, unless such other person consents, for the purpose of passing a leaflet or handbill or food or liquid to, displaying a sign to, or engaging in oral protest, education, or counseling with such other person in the public way within a radius of one-hundred (100) feet from any door to a reproductive health care facility.

Sec. 425.41. Violations.

- a. Any person who shall violate any provision of section 425.31 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or imprisonment not to exceed six (6) months, or both, for a first conviction under section 425.31; and

- b. For a second and each subsequent conviction under section 425.31, the penalty shall be a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or imprisonment not to exceed one (1) year, or both.

Sec. 425.51. Civil cause of action.

Where there has been a violation of section 425.31, any person whose ability to access the premises of a reproductive health care facility has been interfered with, and any owner or operator of a reproductive health care facility or owner of a building in which such facility is located, and any employee, paid or unpaid, and any volunteer working for such facility, and any invitee, may bring a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction, within five years of such violation, for any or all of the following relief: injunctive relief; actual damages suffered as a result of such violation, including, where applicable, pain and suffering, psychological, and emotional distress damages; treble the amount of actual damages suffered as a result of such violation; and attorney's fees and costs.

Sec. 425.61. Civil action by County of Westchester.

The County Attorney may bring a civil action on behalf of the County, in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 158.11(3) of the Laws of Westchester County, in any court of competent jurisdiction for injunctive and other appropriate equitable relief in order to prevent or cure a violation of section 425.31.

Sec. 425.71. Joint and several liability.

If it is found, in any action brought pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, that two (2) or more of the named defendants acted in concert pursuant to a common plan or design to violate

any provision of section 425.31, such defendants shall each be held jointly and severally liable for any fines or penalties imposed or any damages, costs, and fees awarded.

Sec. 425.81. Construction.

- a. No provision of this chapter shall be construed or interpreted so as to limit the right of any person or entity to seek other available criminal penalties or civil remedies, including either the Attorney General for the State of New York or the District Attorney for the County of Westchester.
- b. No provision of this chapter shall be construed or interpreted so as to prohibit expression protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States or section eight of article one of the Constitution of the State of New York.
- c. No provision of this chapter shall be construed or interpreted so as to limit the lawful exercise of any authority vested in the owner or operator of a reproductive health care facility, the owner of the premises in which such a facility is located, or a law enforcement officer of Westchester County or of any municipality within Westchester County, or of New York State or the United States, acting within the scope of such person's official duties.

Sec. 425.91. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

Section 2. This Local Law shall take effect immediately.

SCM-05/16/2022

HOME RULE REQUEST RESOLUTION NO. ___ - 2022

RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Board of Legislators approves the making of a Home Rule Request in the following format:

To the Legislature:

Pursuant to Article IX of the Constitution, the County of Westchester requests the enactment of Assembly Bill No. 9670/Senate Bill No. 8448 entitled "AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to providing certain death benefits to correction officers, correction officer-sergeants, correction officer-captains, assistant wardens, associate wardens or wardens employed by Westchester county."

A necessity exists for the enactment of this legislation because the local government does not have the power to enact such legislation by local law.

Dated: 2022
White Plains, New York

STATE OF NEW YORK

9670

IN ASSEMBLY

March 28, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. ABBATE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Employees

AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to providing certain death benefits to correction officers, correction officer-sergeants, correction officer-captains, assistant wardens, associate wardens or wardens employed by Westchester county

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- 1 Section 1. Section 89-e of the retirement and social security law is
2 amended by adding a new subdivision k to read as follows:
3 k. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, where a
4 correction officer would have been entitled to retire pursuant to this
5 section at the time of his or her death and where his or her death
6 occurs on or after the effective date of the chapter of the laws of two
7 thousand twenty-two that added this subdivision, the beneficiary or
8 beneficiaries may elect to receive, in a lump sum, an amount payable
9 which shall be equal to the pension reserve that would have been estab-
10 lished had the member retired on the date of his or her death, or the
11 value of the death benefit and the reserve-for-increased-take-home-pay,
12 if any, whichever is greater.
13 § 2. The retirement and social security law is amended by adding a new
14 section 606-c to read as follows:
15 § 606-c. Death benefits for correction officers employed by Westches-
16 ter county. a. As used in this section, the term "correction officer"
17 shall mean a person employed by the Westchester county correction
18 department with a title of correction officer, correction officer-ser-
19 geant, correction officer-captain, assistant warden, associate warden or
20 warden.
21 b. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, where a
22 correction officer would have been entitled to a service retirement
23 benefit at the time of his or her death and where his or her death
24 occurs on or after the effective date of the chapter of the laws of two
25 thousand twenty-two that added this section, the beneficiary or benefi-
26 ciaries may elect to receive, in a lump sum, an amount payable which

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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1 shall be equal to the pension reserve that would have been established
 2 had the member retired on the date of his or her death, or the value of
 3 the death benefit and the reserve-for-increased-take-home-pay, if any,
 4 whichever is greater.

5 § 3. All past service costs associated with implementing the
 6 provisions of this act shall be borne by the county of Westchester and
 7 may be amortized over a period of ten years.

8 § 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, none
 9 of the provisions of this act shall be subject to the appropriation
 10 requirement of section 25 of the retirement and social security law.

11 § 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL NOTE.--Pursuant to Legislative Law, Section 50:

This bill would modify the in-service death benefit for tiers 2 through 6 Westchester County correction officers. The in-service death benefit will be the value of the pension reserve as if the member had retired on their date of death.

If this bill is enacted during the 2022 legislative session, we anticipate that there will be an increase of approximately \$93,000 in the annual contributions of Westchester County for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023. In future years, this cost will vary as the billing rates and salary of the affected members change.

In addition to the annual contributions discussed above, there will be an immediate past service cost of approximately \$681,000 which will be borne by Westchester County as a one-time payment. This estimate is based on the assumption that payment will be made on February 1, 2023. If Westchester County elects to amortize this cost over a 10-year period, the cost for the first year including interest would be \$87,000.

These estimated costs are based on 776 affected members employed by the State of New York, with annual salary of approximately \$88.3 million as of March 31, 2021.

Summary of relevant resources:

Membership data as of March 31, 2021 was used in measuring the impact of the proposed change, the same data used in the April 1, 2021 actuarial valuation. Distributions and other statistics can be found in the 2021 Report of the Actuary and the 2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

The actuarial assumptions and methods used are described in the 2020 and 2021 Annual Report to the Comptroller on Actuarial Assumptions, and the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York: Audit and Control.

The Market Assets and GASB Disclosures are found in the March 31, 2021 New York State and Local Retirement System Financial Statements and Supplementary Information.

I am a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet the Qualification Standards to render the actuarial opinion contained herein.

This fiscal note does not constitute a legal opinion on the viability of the proposed change nor is it intended to serve as a substitute for the professional judgment of an attorney.

This estimate, dated February 25, 2022, and intended for use only during the 2022 Legislative Session, is Fiscal Note No. 2022-77 Revised, prepared by the Actuary for the New York State and Local Retirement System.

**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION
submitted in accordance with Assembly Rule III, Sec 1(f)**

BILL NUMBER: A9670

SPONSOR: Abbate

TITLE OF BILL:

An act to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to providing certain death benefits to correction officers, correction officer-sergeants, correction officer-captains, assistant wardens, associate wardens or wardens employed by Westchester county

PURPOSE::

The purpose of this bill is to provide a death gamble amortization for correctional officers employed by Westchester County.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS::

Section 1 adds a new subdivision k to Section 89-E of the Retirement and Social Security Law that allows correction officer beneficiaries to elect to receive, in a lump sum, an amount payable equal to the pension reserve that would have been established had the correction officer retired on the date of their death, or the value of the death benefit and the reserve-for-increased-takehome-pay, if any, whichever is greater.

Section 2 adds a new Section 606-C to the Retirement and Social

Security Law that defines death benefits for corrections officers employed by Westchester County.

Section 3 states that all past service costs associated with implementing this bill shall be borne by Westchester County and may be amortized over a period of 10 years.

Section 4 states that none of the provisions of this bill shall be subject to the appropriation requirement of Section 25 of the Retirement and Social Security Law.

Section 5 is the effective date.

JUSTIFICATION:

This bill provides Westchester County correction officers with death gamble benefits. The death gamble was enacted for New York law enforcement officers, firefighters and teachers in 2000 (Chapter 554 of the Laws of 2000) to incentivize public employees who wish to work past retirement age by providing that, should the employee pass away before taking retirement, his or her family shall be able to receive the full value of his or her pension benefit. In extending this benefit to Westchester County correction officers, this bill helps both officers and local governments as the County is then able to retain correction officers who may have retired instead of working past normal retirement age.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: :

New bill.

STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

See the fiscal note.

EFFECTIVE DATE: :

This act shall take effect immediately.