



Mario Cilento  
*President*

Terrence L. Melvin  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

Mike Neidl  
*Legislative Director*

100 South Swan Street • Albany, New York 12210 • 50 Broadway, 35th Floor • New York, New York 10004  
518-436-8516 • Fax 518-436-8470 212-777-6040 • Fax 212-777-8422

September 11, 2026

Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of the State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

**RE: A9162**

Dear Governor Hochul:

The New York State AFL-CIO, representing 2.5 million union members, their families as well as our retirees and their families, supports the above referenced legislation and urges you to sign it.

This bill amends the Retirement and Social Security Law to create an option for employers to adopt a 25-year retirement plan for state, county, or municipal 911 operators and emergency dispatchers.

Emergency dispatchers and 911 operators are first responders who work in extremely fast-paced, stressful environments. They must often give assistance, advice, and help during criminal incidents, medical emergencies, accidents, emergency scenes, and other dangerous situations. Their role in public safety and protection exposes them to similar levels of stress that other first responders who arrive at the scene experience.

Recruitment and retention of these employees is extremely difficult, as the stress and trauma of the job take a significant toll on their well-being. Considering they often provide critical life-saving services, it is imperative that we train and retain the highest qualified candidates for these jobs and this bill will assist in lowering turnover to ensure stability of service. This bill also recognizes the value that 911 operators and emergency dispatchers have in maintaining health and safety in our communities and is consistent with retirement benefits that other first responders are entitled to.

Therefore, on behalf of the New York State AFL-CIO, I respectfully urge this bill be signed into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mario Cilento", written in a cursive style.

Mario Cilento  
President

MC:MN:ns  
opeiu-153