

CITIZENS BUDGET COMMISSION

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CBC UPDATES PENSION SWEETENER SCORECARD

New Scorecard Highlights Three Additional Bills that Would Increase Pension Costs

New York, NY – June 18, 2009 – The Citizens Budget Commission (CBC) today posted an update of its pension sweetener scorecard. The scorecard tracks the introduction, progress, and sponsors of legislation designed to sweeten existing pension benefits of government employees, as well as any pension reform efforts to reduce future pension liabilities, as part of a new effort to highlight government activity on bills that serve to enrich already generous pension benefits for public employees in the final weeks of each legislative session. The scorecard update and the full text of a letter sent by the CBC President to State legislators two weeks ago on this subject can be found on the CBC website at www.cbcny.org.

Three new bills have been added.

- **A7906/S3687** improves disability pensions for airport firefighters and safety officers to 75 percent of final average salary, and creates a presumption that heart and lung disease, and certain types of cancer were caused on the job.
- **A8509/S5633** allows the deferral and lump sump payment of five days of vacation time for correctional officers and security hospital assistants upon retirement.
- **A5313/S3510** would permit vested teachers in New York State Teachers Retirement System to withdraw from the system if they've ceased teaching, as can their counterparts in Tiers I and II. Member contributions would be required to be returned to those who withdraw.

“Given the financial burden that taxpayers are already bearing in this difficult economy, none of these bills, which will drive skyrocketing public pension costs even higher, should be moving through the Legislature” said CBC President Carol Kellermann, “Pension reform in this State is long overdue and we hope State leaders will come together in these final days in June to implement Tier V.”

Founded in 1932, the Citizens Budget Commission is a nonpartisan, nonprofit civic organization devoted to influencing constructive change in the finances and services of New York State and New York City governments.