



# Labor & Employment Issues Client Alert

Pitta LLP  
For Clients  
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**“We believe in the ideas of family, mutuality,  
the sharing of benefits and burdens  
for the good of all, feeling one another’s pain,  
sharing one another’s blessing  
recognizing that at the heart of the matter  
we are bound to each other.”**

**-Mario M. Cuomo-**

## **GOVERNOR SUPPORTS LINE-OF-DUTY BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES OF PUBLIC WORKERS THAT HAVE DIED FROM COVID-19**

Governor Andrew Cuomo becomes the latest elected official to publicly support line of duty benefits for the families of public workers that have passed away from COVID-19. The Governor joins Mayor Bill de Blasio, the City Council and members of the State Assembly and State Senate to support granting line of duty accidental death benefits to the families of public workers.

Senator Andrew Gounardes and Assemblyman Peter Abbate have introduced legislation ([A10523/S8420](#)) that would automatically classify the COVID-19 deaths of New York State and City employees as happening within the line of duty under the presumption that the worker contracted COVID-19 while on the job. That worker’s family and beneficiaries would then be entitled to receive death benefits and their pensions. The benefits to public employees would vary widely as some pension plans offer more generous benefits than others.

The funds to pay the line of duty benefits to families of workers who have died from COVID-19 would be paid out of state or city pension funds, depending on whether the worker had a New York City pension, or a pension from the state retirement system.

The State legislature will be convening today and tomorrow and will contemplate various COVID-19 related bills including bills relating to price gouging, amending the criminal procedure law to conduct hearings on a family during a state of emergency and changes to the education law. Supporters of the line of duty benefits bill hope that it will pass within the next two days of session.

Governor Cuomo said the following about public employees: “I have such respect and esteem for what they did, and I want to make sure that we repay that.”

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