The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1207.

This bill provides that any member of the State Police Retirement System (“SPRS”) who is required to retire upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 55 and who has at least 20, but less than 25, years of service credit in the retirement system will receive health care benefits coverage through the State Health Benefits Program (“SHBP”) for that member and that member’s dependents. Under the bill, the State pays the full cost of the health benefits coverage and the retiree is not required to make any contribution for the cost of this coverage.

The bill applies retroactively to each eligible retiree of the SPRS who has at least 20, but less than 25, years of service as of the date of mandatory retirement, which occurred within 24 months prior to the effective date of this bill. Such retirees who made contributions towards the cost of health care benefits coverage within 24 months before the bill’s effective date will have those contributions reimbursed by the SHBP.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3086, as also reported by the committee.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The OLS does not have information on the number of current and future State Police Retirement System (“SPRS”) retirees who will be eligible for the benefit provided by this bill. Although the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the Divisions of Pension and Benefits sets forth the number of scheduled service retirements from SPRS, this report does not differentiate between mandatory and voluntary retirements. Therefore, the OLS cannot provide an estimate of the annual cost to the State.

The OLS notes that the Plan Year 2018 annual cost for health care benefits coverage in the State Health Benefits Plan covering the greatest number of enrolled retired State employees is $14,776 for single coverage (without Medicare) and $36,645 for family coverage (without Medicare). The coverage is without Medicare because the retiree is less than 65 years of age.