



ATU LOCAL 1181-1061
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE TO MEMBERSHIP ON
EPP (Employee Protection Provision)
June 26th, 2015

This is a follow-up to our last update dated, June 24th, 2015:

Our EPP legislation, A8019 sponsored by Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell and S5984 sponsored by Senator Marty Golden, passed in the New York State Assembly but did not pass in the New York State Senate. We fought hard and made many persuasive arguments in the Senate, but in the end, the New York State Senate concluded their legislative session without passing our EPP bill. We had support in the Senate from many allies including the City of New York, the New York City Council, Reliant Bus Company, the AFL-CIO, Parents to Improve School Transportation, the Long Island Federation of Labor, the New York City Central Labor Council and the Smart Transportation Division.

However, we also faced significant opposition from the New York State School Bus Contractors Association. The Association went directly to the leadership of the Senate and said that our bill was flawed and would unfairly benefit Reliant. The Association also got bus contractors on Long Island to call the Senate Majority Leader, who is from Long Island, who they asked personally to oppose the bill because it would hurt companies in his district.

Complicating matters further was the fact that while the City of New York was supporting the legislation this year, they have a sometimes contentious relationship with the New York State Senate. The City and the Senate rarely see eye to eye on many issues, and the fact there were many significant issues being dealt with this year that impacted the City made our issue even more difficult.

Finally, there was negative press that hit at the end of the legislative session that did not help our position such as this story, <http://nypost.com/2015/06/17/94m-school-bus-contracts-under-fire-for-possible-collusion/>, which while not about our issue directly, added confusion and questions to our issue.

While we wanted this bill to pass this year, we are already working on a plan to get this legislation passed during the next session. We are also working on a plan with the Mayor's office to see what can be done about the current contracts that have been bid without the EPP's. We feel that there might be a way to fix these contracts without legislation.

We will be meeting with the City and the Bus Contractors Association to figure out how we can all work together to get on the same page and finally put the EPP's into state statute.

Sincerely,

Michael Cordiello, President / Business Agent
ATU Local 1181-1061 and Our Lobbyist
Amy Kellogg of Harter Secrest & Emery, LLP