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## CLIENT ADVISORY

### **NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AFFORDED GREATER LEAVE RIGHTS FOR BREAST CANCER AND PROSTATE CANCER SCREENINGS**

As of August 20, 2008, the New York State legislature has expanded the leave rights of public employees for breast cancer and prostate cancer screenings.

This new bill expands to cover the following groups of employees: employees of public authorities, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), vocational education and extension boards, community colleges, a school district enumerated in section one of chapter five hundred sixty-six of the laws of nineteen hundred seventy-seven, employees of a participating employer in the New York state teachers' retirement system. The law previously applied to only, state, county, municipal and school district employees outside of New York City.

The expanded law affords paid leave "not to exceed four hours on an annual basis," for breast and prostate cancer screenings. Proponents of this legislation emphasize that increased participation in cancer screenings can lead early detection and save lives.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

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