



LOCAL DIVISION 589
AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION, AFL-CIO-CLC
BOSTON CARMEN'S UNION

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Dear Retired MBTA Employee,

As you may have read or heard, the Massachusetts Legislature changed the MBTA Act this Summer. Two of the provisions were attacks on MBTA active employees and, particularly, on retirees. The new law provides:

- 1) Beginning with the next contract, future hires will not be eligible to retire until they complete 25 years of service and reach 55 years of age, taking away the long-standing "23 and out" section of the pension;
- 2) **MOST IMPORTANTLY, Beginning as early as next July, the MBTA health care plan will be abolished and all active and retired employees will be transferred to the general State Employee group under the Group Insurance Commission or "GIC."**

These laws may or may not save money for the State, but participation in the GIC will surely

- 1) remove collective bargaining rights for all MBTA workers and retirees; and
- 2) will for the first time require retirees to pay part of the monthly premium for your health care, including the medicare supplement if you are over 65 years of age;
- 3) in particular, GIC benefits for **OUT OF STATE RETIREES** are far more expensive than the existing MBTA plan.

Local 589 and other MBTA Unions battled hard in the legislature and beat back many of the worst proposals, but could not find enough support to defeat these two. We are convinced that they are not only wrong, but unconstitutional as well.

LAWSUIT TO BE FILED


Our lawyers, Doug Taylor of Gromfine, Taylor and Tyler along with Paul Hynes of Angoff, Goldman, Manning, Wanger and Hynes, will file suit, asking the courts to declare the law unconstitutional. The arguments are complicated, but an important one is based on Federal labor protections. The MBTA has accepted billions of dollars of Federal assistance, promising over and over not to change health care or pensions except at the bargaining table. We think the Constitution holds them to their promises.

The Union intends to structure the suit as a "class action" to represent everyone who will be affected. We want to keep in touch with you and make sure that as the lawsuit goes forward you receive the best representation possible, are kept well informed and, if it becomes necessary, can lend your voice to questions which arise.

Please complete the form enclosed and return it right away to Local 589 at the address on the enclosed envelope. Thanks for your help with this urgent matter.

On behalf of the Executive Board of Boston Carmens Union


STEPHAN G. MACDOUGALL
President/Business Agent


JOHN A. CLANCY
Recording Secretary

MBTA RETIREE - CURRENT INFORMATION FORM - LOCAL 589, ATU

NOTE: Are you a resident of Massachusetts? Please circle: Yes No

Name: _____

Years of MBTA Service: _____

Date of Hire: _____ Date of Retirement: _____

Do you have a spouse covered by the plan? Please circle: Yes No
(If yes, please provide name and date of birth.) _____

Do you have dependent children covered by the plan? Please circle: Yes No
(If yes, please provide number and ages.) _____

Current Address (include ZIP): _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Which Health Care Plan have you selected? _____

May we contact you to discuss your situation? _____

Would you be willing to give evidence as a witness about the impact of the new law on you? If yes, please describe your situation (you may use the front and back of this form.

Signature: _____ Date: _____