



# News from Assemblyman Cryan

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## **CRYAN: PENSION DEFERRAL MAY BE ONLY CHANCE FOR SOME TOWNS TO PREVENT ‘DISASTROUS’ TAX HIKES**

*Assemblyman Says Legislation ‘Least of Many Dismal Options’*

(TRENTON) – Assemblyman Joseph Cryan today said legislation released by the Assembly Budget Committee to defer some of this year’s obligated pension payments may be the only opportunity for some communities to avoid either double-digit property tax increases or draconian cuts in essential services.

Cryan is sponsor of the bill (A-3688). It would defer some public pension obligations through 2012 with an option to deposit extra funds into an escrow account.

The budget panel released the measure 7-5, sending it to the Assembly Speaker who decides if and when to post it for a floor vote.

Following the committee’s vote, Cryan released the following statement:

*“Allowing communities to defer part of their pension obligations is the least of many dismal options being forced on the state by the deepening recession.*

*“Absent this fiscal blow-off valve, many schools, towns and cities will be backed into choosing between either disastrous property tax hikes or draconian cuts in essential services.*

*“Without this short-term relief, residents surely will lose.*

*“This is not a pension holiday. Public pension funds will be made whole.*

*“This deferral can release at least a little of the financial pressure squeezing the countless New Jersey families dealing with either decreasing incomes or the loss of their jobs.”*