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## Some Former State Workers Exempted From Ethics Law

John Caher

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Former state officers who lost their jobs due to a workforce reduction are temporarily exempt under a bill signed by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo from an ethics law provision barring officials from appearing or practicing before their former government employer for two years. The bill, [S5109/A8111](#), is effective retroactively to Jan. 1, 2011, and extends through April 1, 2012, an exemption permitting former officers to appear and practice before their former agency, which is otherwise a violation of the Public Officers Law. In the bill justification measure, lawmakers said: "State officers and employees involuntarily terminated because of reductions in the state workforce should not be prohibited from re-entering the workforce where opportunities are available." The bill was sponsored in upper chamber by Senator Roy J. McDonald, R-Saratoga, and in the Assembly by Peter J. Abbate Jr., D-Brooklyn.

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