



## **NCRGEA Government Relations Update #21-19 May 25, 2021**

### **Legislature at a Stand Still!**

It has been a very quiet start to the week at General Assembly. It appears that the lack of agreement over the revenue availability for the budget has caused a pause in committee work and no floor votes have been scheduled in either the House or Senate.

[HB 395 - Extend Deadlines for Mandatory HIE Particip.](#) This bill extends from June 1, 2021 to January 1, 2023 the deadline for health care providers to join the statewide health information exchange network. Under the current statute, if the deadline becomes effective the State Health Plan (SHP) will be unable to pay claims submitted by a provider who is not enrolled in the network. This means that retirees will be balanced-billed for the cost of services. The latest version of the bill requires the HIE Advisory Board to recommend a resolution that will allow all providers to remain in the SHP's network allowing SHP to pay for all provider services.

The bill has passed the Senate and waits for the House to take action concur with Senate changes or send the bill to conference.

### **Take Action!**

If you have not already done so contact your Senator and ask them to support additional funding for retirees to help maintain your pension value...

Your Senator's contact information can be found here by clicking on this link. [Find Your Legislators](#), hit enter and then click on the Senate district to retrieve your Senator's biographical information including their email.

In making your support known, we suggest you thank your Senator for funding the Retirement System's pension plans, remind your Senator of how much inflation has diminished the value of our pensions.

You can use the following as a guide for your email to your Senator:

*Senator*

*Thank you for your continued support of funding for the pension plan. You have helped keep our plans among the strongest in the country.*

*With the money available this year, I hope you will consider increasing the value of our pensions. North Carolina's public-sector retirees have lost roughly 20 percent of the value of their pensions to inflation since 2008. Adding value to our pensions helps improve the economy. Every dollar added to our pensions results in \$1.56 in total economy activity in North Carolina.*

*Both our local and state retirees—our former police, firefighters, teachers, infrastructure workers, and the support staff that organized it all—should not be forgotten as the Legislature debates what items to fund in the next budget. Please increase the pensions for those who gave their lives and careers to make North Carolina one of the fastest-growing and best places to live in America.*

**###**

Stay Tuned!!

Richard Rogers  
NCRGEA Executive Director