



## NCRGEA Government Relations Update

### **NCRGEA Government Relations Update #21-17 May 11, 2021**

#### **Crossover week stressing committee process**

With crossover deadline coming on May 13, the committee process is being stretched to its limits. The House and Senate have committee hearings scheduled for 150 bills today with 75 bills on the House Rules Committee calendar. Most of these bills in committee will eventually be heard on the floors of the House and Senate. The House and Senate sessions will be long and taxing as they count down to midnight on Thursday, May 13. There has been discussion of extending crossover but both House and Senate leadership are holding the line on this self-imposed deadline. We will see if they continue to stand their ground.

The LGERS bonus bill [H 583- Give LGERS Retirees 2% Bonus](#) and the TSERS 2% COLA bills [S-479 – 2% COLA for State Retirees](#) and [H 269- Give State Retirees 2% COLA](#) are appropriation bills and are not subject to crossover.

#### **Bills in Committee**

On Monday the House Pensions and Retirement Committee discussed [HB 763 - Preserve State Pension Plan Modernization](#). Representative Elmore, the primary sponsor of the bill, explained to the committee that he wants to ensure future retirees will receive COLAs in their retirement. His bill proposes to give the option to future state employees to retire with a plan that would systematically provide cost of living adjustments (COLAs).

While the bill does not address current retirees, Representative Elmore is interested in modernizing the retirement system and is seeking a path forward that can ensure a well-funded retirement system that takes politics out of the COLA process. The committee expressed concern about reducing the retiree multiplier from 1.82% to 1.50% which would reduce a retiree's benefit but provide for a systematic COLA. Obviously, we are seeking adjustments to the retirement system to better maintain current retiree pension value by providing COLAs regularly.

Representative Elmore is also interested in adjustments in the system to support current retirees too. We will continue to work with Representative Elmore on his desire to

modernize the retirement system and to provide more consistent COLAs for current and future retirees.

**Stay Tuned!!**

Richard Rogers  
NCRGEA Executive Director