



NCRGEA *Government Relations* Update

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After eleven months in the making and the heftiest of ongoing negotiations among leaders in the legislative branch and the executive branch, a 2021—2023 conference budget passed its second reading yesterday in the Senate. The conference budget ([SB 105](#)) is expected to pass third reading today in the Senate, and the House will vote this afternoon and tomorrow on the biennial budget.

State retirees will see a total of a 5% bonus added to their pensions. The budget appropriates a 2 percent bonus for retirees for 2021 and an additional 3 percent in 2022. Having half of the House chamber sign as a sponsor or co-sponsor to [HB 269](#), which requested a 2 percent COLA, provided significant momentum this year and increased the opportunity for retirees to receive additional funds.

Local government retirees did not realize any additional funds in the budget. We made our best effort to get local government retirees a 2% bonus in [HB 583](#); however, the bill was not incorporated in the budget.

The total \$25.9 billion budget increases spending by 4.3 percent this year and is expected to be signed into law by Gov. Roy Cooper.

As session winds down to its end, we will keep you posted!

Stay tuned!

Richard Rogers
NCRGEA Executive Director