



North Carolina
**Retired
Governmental
Employees'**
Association



**LEGISLATIVE
— REPORT —**

Legislative Update #19-04 March 1, 2019

On Monday Governor Cooper presented his State of the State message to a joint session of the General Assembly. He attempted to strike a bipartisan tone with the Republican led legislature. His priorities included continuing to rebuild and support those impacted by hurricanes, supporting cities and rural communities and investing in public schools. The Governor also made a case to provide health care for hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians through Medicaid expansion.

The rest of the week was busy with appropriations committee meetings and bill fillings. The annual retirement system bills, administrative changes and technical corrections were introduced on Wednesday. Below are bills that were introduced this week that we will be tracking in the General Assembly.

HB 180 - State Benefits/Pension Revisions AB - this bill addresses several changes to TSERS and LGERS related to the collection of overpayments, extends the allowable use of contributions toward the administration of legislative operational requirements, allows the State Treasurer to do criminal background checks, garnishes wages for former employees who owe the State money and gives the State Treasurer authority to operate a flexible compensation plan for supplemental insurances such as dental and vision.

Action: Referred to House Rules Committee, 8-28-19.

HB 184 - Study State Health Plan Design - this bill establishes a study committee to look at options to modernize the implementation of the State Health Plan while requiring the current health plan remain in place through 2021.

Action: Referred to House Health Committee, with referrals to Finance and Rules, 8-27-19.

HB 188- Retirement Administrative Changes 2019 - AB - this bill makes clarifying and administrative changes to retirement system laws.

Action: Referred to House Rules Committee, 8-28-19.

HB 213 - Equal Tax Treatment of Government Retirees - this bill provides equal income tax treatment of government retirees' benefits. The bill allows those retirees not Bailey-vested to deduct any local, state and federal pension. The act will be implemented by phasing in retirees according to the dates they vested in the pension. NCRGEA fully supports this bill and will advocate for its passage.

Action: Referred to House Pensions and Retirement Committee, with referrals to Finance and Rules, 8-28-19.

HB 214 - Retirement Technical Corrections Act of 2019 - AB - this bill makes technical and clarifying changes to the State Health Plan and Retirement Systems.

Action: Referred to House Rules Committee, 8-28-19.

We will keep you updated on all legislative action taken on these bills. Our NCRGEA legislative team continues to meet with members of the General Assembly advocating for your retiree benefits and for your much-needed COLA.

Stay Tuned!!

Richard Rogers
NCRGEA Executive Director