



North Carolina
**Retired
Governmental
Employees'**
Association



**LEGISLATIVE
— REPORT —**

NCRGEA Legislative Update #19-05 March 8, 2019

On Wednesday Governor Cooper rolled out his proposed 2019-2021 budget. The Governor's proposal fully funds the retirement system and state health plan and also provides a 2% one-time bonus for state retirees. The Governor proposed a 1% COLA last year in his budget that was not adopted by legislature. The Governor's budget will be placed in a bill to be introduced and considered by the General Assembly.

Lake Case Update

The Court of Appeals (Judge Tyson, Bryant and Hunter) ruled on March 5, 2019 that the State of North Carolina does not have a contractual requirement to provide North Carolina state retirees with retirement health care benefits. The North Carolina Supreme Court will be asked to review the case and issue a final ruling, which is warranted given the number of impacted individuals (approximately 225,000) and the long-term impacts of this decision which could result in the State eliminating retirement healthcare benefits, in spite of the state having promised such benefits at the time employees were hired.

Bill Tracking

No action was taken by the General Assembly the bills currently being tracked by NCRGEA.

HB 180 - State Benefits/Pension Revisions AB - Action: Referred to House Rules Committee, 8-28-19.

HB 184 - Study State Health Plan Design - Action: Referred to House Health Committee, with referrals to Finance and Rules, 8-27-19.

HB 188- Retirement Administrative Changes 2019-AB - Action: Referred to House Rules Committee, 8-28-19.

HB 213 - Equal Tax Treatment of Government Retirees - 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 - Action: Referred to House Rules Committee, 8-28-19.

We will keep you updated on all legislative action taken on these bills. The 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