



## **NCRGEA Legislative Update #19-07 March 22, 2019**

Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger and Speaker of the House Tim Moore announced that the House and Senate will have \$24 Billion to work with in developing next year's State budget. The \$24 billion is the amount of funds the House and Senate have agreed to be available for expenditure in the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019.

The 4th Branch held its lobby day to support H 213 Equal Tax Treatment of Government Retirees. "The 4th Branch is a coalition of groups (including NCRGEA) representing the interests of military, federal, state and local public-service retirees and current employees in those fields. The coalition arose from the struggle to achieve fair and equitable treatment for all government retirees with regard to the taxation of earned retirement benefits of groups." (4th Branch)

This bill extends to all retirees (if passed) the Bailey Act which allows retirees vested prior to August 12, 1989 to be exempted from state income tax. There was a good group of retired local, state and federal retirees to lobby the General Assembly. The bill's primary sponsor is Rep. Cleveland of Onslow County who has long supported for the expansion of the Bailey Act to include all retirees. Representatives Blackwell, Hurley and Speciale are also primary sponsors on the bill. The bill is currently in the House Finance Committee awaiting a hearing. Coming up on Tuesday, March 26th H 184 Study State Health Plan Design is on the House Health Committee agenda. This bill was introduced to slow down the referenced based pricing plan the State Treasurer plans to implement in 2020.

We support the efforts of the State Treasurer to reduce health care costs to the State and for retirees as long as **all** retirees eligible for the State Health Plan benefits have access to in-network providers.

No action has been taken by the General Assembly on the other bills currently being tracked by NCRGEA.

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, pension reform and for your much needed COLA.

Stay Tuned!!

Richard Rogers  
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