



North Carolina
**Retired
Governmental
Employees'**
Association



**LEGISLATIVE
— REPORT —**

NCRGEA Legislative Update #19-08 March 29, 2019

2019-2020 Budget Timeline in the House

The House Appropriations Committee Chairs announced that they hope to have their budget ready for a vote at the end of April. On Thursday, the House Appropriation Chairs met with Appropriation Subcommittee Chairs to discuss how the \$24 Billion in available funds will be divided among the various committees. Since there is no veto-proof majority in the legislature, the Governor will have the power of the veto over the budget. The House Appropriation Chairs say they have been working more closely with the Governor's staff in the development of their budget.

Bill Tracking

Bill Introductions for Monday, April 1, 2019.

[S 399 - Rehire High Needs Teachers](#) - this bill allows certain retired teachers to work full time in "high-need" schools while retaining their retiree benefits.

[S 403 - State and Local Government Pension/PED Study](#) - this bill has the Program Evaluation Division of the General Assembly to evaluate the local and state pension systems and to make recommendations to address the long-term sustainability of the pension systems.

[S 408 - Pension Benefits Revision](#) - 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 Treasurer to do criminal background checks; garnishes wages for former employees that owe the state money; and gives the Treasurer authority to operate a flexible compensation plan for supplemental insurances such as dental and vision. (This bill is a companion bill for H-180.)

[S 416 - Recruit/Retain Volunteer Firefighters](#) - this bill creates the NC Firefighters Fellows Program, provides hunting and fishing license fee waivers, excludes from taxes 25% of the assessed value of primary residence, and increases pension fund member payments from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per month.

Committee Meetings

The House Health Committee met on Tuesday to hear **[H 184 Study State Health Plan Design](#)**. Rep. Dobson provided an overview of the bill and several members made observations regarding the need for the legislation. Several members including Committee Chair, Donnie Lambeth, suggested that while the Treasurer's plan to reduce provider cost could save the plan money, a holistically review of the plan is needed to make sure any adjustments to the State Health Plan would help to sustain the plan for the long term. **H 184** passed out of the House Health Committee with only two votes in opposition. The bill was referred to the House Insurance Committee for its next hearing.

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

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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