



## **NCRGEA Legislative Update #19-09 April 5, 2019**

### **Bills, Bills and More Bills**

With the Senate's bill filing deadline this week, there were 318 bills filed by the House and Senate. After this week the General Assembly has 1,100 bills eligible for consideration and more to come as the House bill filing deadline comes later in the month.

### **Bills Introduced This Week**

[SB 488 - Realistic Evaluation of Actuarial Liability](#) - This bill requires stress testing of the retirement system as recommended by the Pew Foundation; makes amendments to the allocation of unused funds from the State Treasurer's administration of supplemental voluntary insurance benefits (dental & Vision), prioritizes use of unencumbered balance of the Public Employee Health Benefit Fund through a non-reverting transfer; makes technical changes to the laws pertaining to the State Health Plan and Retirement Systems.

[HB 562 - Health Care Reimbursement Contracts / AOB's](#) - This bill requires payments to be made to Health Care Providers under reimbursement contracts and makes other statutory changes to those contracts and to assignment of benefit agreements.

[SB 599 - State & Local Disability Benefit Reform](#) - This bill moves the administration of short-term disability benefits to the employing agency; modernizes the medical review board to establish the board as a contracted service to the State; addresses overpayments owed to the Disability Income Plan by members of the optional retirement system and makes conforming changes related to these objectives.

[SB 657 - Expand Property Tax Homestead Exclusion](#) - This bill expands the homestead exclusion income cap from \$25,000 to \$35,000 for eligible property owners, adjusts exclusion amounts and provides that the NC Department of Revenue reimburse counties for revenue lost from the implementation of the provisions of this bill.

### **House Bill Moves to the Senate**

[HB 184 Study State Health Plan Design](#) - passed second reading with a vote of 75-36 and there was no objection to third reading. Two amendments were offered by Rep. Speciale. The first amendment provided that the State Treasurer be a voting member of the study committee and eliminated the option for the study committee to add members during the study. This amendment passed 106-5. The second amendment proposed to allow the State Treasurer to proceed with his "clear pricing project", which establishes a new network of providers that agree to be reimbursed at 182% of Medicare rates. This amendment failed by a vote of 23-88. HB 184 was sent to the Senate and it was referred to the Senate Rules Committee. What the Senate will do with this bill is unknown at

this time. We will keep you posted.

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  
NCRGEA Executive Director