



NCRGEA Government Relations Update

NCRGEA Government Relations Update #21-08
March 16, 2021

Federal Economic Stimulus Coming Soon

As many as 9.1 million North Carolina residents will receive stimulus checks as part of the COVID-19 relief bill passed by congress last week. It is projected that cash payments will reach more than 4 in 5 adults in North Carolina. The \$1,400 checks will go to individuals earning less than \$75,000, heads of households earning less than \$112,500 and joint filers earning less than \$150,000.

The stimulus package will also bring North Carolina nearly \$9 billion in aid for state government (\$5.2 billion), metro cities (\$672 million), other non-county governments (\$682 million) and county governments (\$2 billion) as well as \$277 million for capital projects. *

COLA Bill Introduced

On Monday, [House Bill 269 Give State Retirees 2% COLA/Funds](#) was introduced in the N.C. House of Representatives with 40 sponsors, including members of both parties. While COLA bills are introduced in the legislature basically every year, rarely do they arrive with bipartisan sponsorship from one-third of the chamber. [House Bill 269](#) would appropriate \$96 million in each of the next two years from the General Fund in order to provide a two percent COLA for teachers and state retirees. The COLA would go into effect on July 1 of this year.

Representative Pat Hurley (R-Randolph), House Joint Caucus Liaison, introduced the bill, joined by Representatives Jeff Zenger (R-Forsyth), Diane Wheatley (R-Cumberland) and Phil Shepard (R-Onslow) as primary sponsors.

HB 269 received its first reading Monday and was referred to the House State Personnel Committee.

While local government retirees (LGERS) are not included in H-269, we continue to engage legislators about the lack of any increase in their pensions to offset inflation since 2008. We are working in the Senate to have a COLA bill introduced including LGERS. We also continue to work in both the House and Senate on other ways to put more money in local retirees' pockets.

We strive to have North Carolina's state and local retired public servants treated equally in the maintenance of their pension values through COLAs or any other form of compensation.

Our video update can be seen by clicking on this link: <https://youtu.be/BJyBNWQSM20>

Stay Tuned!

Richard Rogers
NCRGEA Executive Director

***Here's what NC individuals, families and governments can expect from COVID relief bill [BY BRIAN MURPHY](#)**
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