



NCRGEA Government Relations Update

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As they say, the devil is in the details. And so it goes as our budgetary process continues along a choppy and slow course. Leaders in our two legislative chambers continue to hammer out an agreed budget target—the total spending of the state budget—so far to date, we are closer but still far from an agreement on the estimated 25.7 billion dollar budget.

Many differences remain between the two chambers. For retirees, our House members heard our call, having 2 percent pension bonus for state retirees. *A bill providing a subsequent 2 percent bonus for local government retirees remains in committee.*

Among those members who are assigned as House conferees, the conference committee that will work with senate conferees in negotiating the final budget, several are advocates for retirees or retired from state or local government service. Our government relations team will work with these and all conferees until the final budget is agreed upon.

Both the House and Senate versions fully fund both the state pension and the State Health Plan.

Tax cuts remain another stumbling block for the two chambers as the senate wants to reduce the individual tax rate to 3.99 percent. The House is not as eager with its reduced individual tax rate dropping from 5.25 percent to 4.99 percent.

While negotiations continue, we still need your help. Please visit [House & Senate Conferees for S 105 – Appropriations Act 2021-2023](#) to find contact information for the budget conferees, including email and phone. Tell the budget conferees and your legislators that you and all retired public servants need an inflation abating cost of living adjustment. Your legislators need to hear from you that you need a cost-of-living adjustment to help regain pension loss and abate inflation.



On a matter of personal privilege, we solemnly mourn the loss of life for the men and women recently killed while in service to our country. We thank the women and men who bravely served in our 20-year effort in Afghanistan. Thousands of those who served are from or have lived in North Carolina. Sadly this includes 23-year-old Sergeant Nicole Gee, who was slain last week in a terrorist attack in Kabul. Sgt. Gee was stationed at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville. May we also reflect upon the last soldier to leave Afghanistan, Major General Chris Donahue, will soon return home to Fort Bragg.

Again we are reminded of the high cost of service and significant importance of our military in North Carolina.

Keep up the good fight friends, and thank you for being a part of our retiree family.

Stay Tuned!!

Richard Rogers
NCRGEA Executive Director