



NCRGEA *Government Relations* Update

NCRGEA Government Relations Update #21-21

June 8, 2021

After weeks of deliberations and closed-door meetings, the two chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly came to an agreement this weekend settling on the infamous “budget number” that will provide spending thresholds as line items of the budget continue to take shape.

Lawmakers now plan for a total 7 percent increase in spending over the two-year biennium. Budget writers have essentially expanded the budget for this coming fiscal year by \$400 million over last year’s budget.

As federal dollars continue to roll into the state, legislators and the executive branch continue to find solutions to the lengthy problems the pandemic either caused or exposed including reliable access to broadband and availability to telehealth.

As the budget process begins in earnest, advocacy efforts have resulted in legislators filing legislation that not only provides needed relief for state retirees (TSERS), but local government retirees (LGERS) as well. A cost-of-living adjustment is crucial as inflation looms and the years of no cost-of-living increases continue to be a major drag on your pension values.

Working with Representative Pat Hurley (R—Randolph), HB 269 had momentous support from House members with 40 sponsors signing onto the bill. House Bill 593 provides a 2 percent adjustment for local government retirees—a huge shift from a previous viewpoint that local governments were solely responsible for local government retirees. Representative John Hardister (R—Guilford) sponsored the local government bill and we are grateful to both him and Representative Hurley for championing these efforts.

All good news and while we are now entering the last laps of the budget process, we remain vigilant in our advocacy for every retiree, both local and state, to receive your deserved pension relief.

Stay Tuned!!!

Richard Rogers
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