



NCRGEA Legislative Update #19-02 (February 15, 2019)

The General Assembly has gotten off to a slow start in its first couple of weeks, but the pace is going to pick up next week. Your Ncrgea Board of Directors will be in Raleigh lobbying on your behalf next week. They will be meeting with every legislator who will give them time to make sure the members of the General Assembly understand that the pensions of local and state retirees continue to devalue each passing year without a COLA.

The **House and Senate Pensions Committees** will meet jointly Tuesday afternoon to hear from State Treasurer Dale Folwell.

No bills will be considered at this meeting.

The **House Health Committee** will meet on Tuesday morning. State Treasurer Folwell will present his "Clear Pricing Project" to the Committee. This initiative would provide State Health Plan participants with a new network of healthcare providers, providers that agree to bill the State at the Medicare rate plus 77 percent. The State Treasurer's proposal estimates a \$300 million savings to the state and greater transparency in medical billing.

The State Treasurer's "Clear Pricing Project" is a step in the right direction to bring transparency to the health care and save the state money; however, if all current in-network providers do not agreed to the new reimbursement rate there may be gaps of in-network doctors and hospitals especially in rural North Carolina leaving those retirees potentially having to pay more out of pocket for health care.

The North Carolina Healthcare Association representing hospitals and healthcare facilities across the state will also present their concerns with the State Treasurer's plan to the Health Committee.

No bills will be considered.

Stay Tuned!!

Richard Rogers
NCRGEA Executive Director