



NCRGEA Government Relations Update

NCRGEA Government Relations Update #21-14 April 20, 2021

Bills Introduced this Week

On Monday [HB 583 – Give LGERS Retirees 2% Bonus](#) was introduced in the House. Representatives Hardister (Davidson), Erin Pare (Wake), Ray Pickett (Watauga) and Gale Adcock (Wake) are the primary sponsors. The bill provides a 2% one-time bonus for Local Government retirees. The bill provides that state funds will be allocated to provide, the approximately \$34,000,000, for an LGERS' bonus. While the preferred option for LGERS would be a COLA, we are supporting this measure for LGERS and are grateful to all the bill sponsors for valuing the local retirees and providing an opportunity for LGERS to receive its first pension increase in more than 7 years. HB 583 had its first reading Monday and was referred to State Personnel and if approved will be referred to the Pensions and Retirement Committee.

Bills in Committee Last Week

[HB 269 – Give State Retirees 2% COLA](#) passed unanimously out of House State Personnel Committee on Wednesday and was referred to House Pensions and Retirement Committee which will meet on Tuesday, April 20th at 2:00 pm. We are meeting with committee members to ensure their support for HB 269 when it comes before the Pensions and Retirement Committee.

[HB 395 - Extend Deadlines for Mandatory HIE Particip.](#) This bill extends the deadline for health care providers to join the statewide health information exchange network that is required by statute. The current statute mandates enrollment in the network no later than June 1, 2021. HB 395 extends the required join date to June 1, 2022. This deadline has been extended several years and some legislators would like to see penalties in place for those providers that do not join rather than simply extending the date with no consequences. The importance to state retirees is that if a provider they use does not enroll in the network prior to the established deadline, the State Health Plan will be unable to pay claims submitted by a provider who is not enrolled in the network. This means that the state health plan member will be responsible for paying for those services without any coverage from the State Health Plan. While most providers have enrolled there are some that have not. We are working with the Health Committee and bill sponsors to make sure State Health Plan participants will not be negatively impacted by this legislation. HB395

was scheduled to be heard in today's Health Committee but has been pulled from the calendar to allow more time to discuss this important matter related to the State Health Plan.

Stay Tuned!!

Richard Rogers
NCRGEA Executive Director