

Week 10 Update

The Legislature convened for the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth legislative days of the Regular Session this week.

House passed the Education Trust Fund budget, which included full funding of TRS and PEEHIP at the requested rates. The budget increases the PEEHIP employer rate to \$904 per member per month, which amounts to a \$124 million increase in funding. The budget now goes back to the Senate for it to concur in the changes made in the House.

The House passed HB542, by Rep. Shaver, which allows supernumerary district attorneys to draw both supernumerary benefits and retirement benefits if the benefits are based on different years of service.

The Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund committee amended HB158, the bill that creates a process for funding retiree benefit increases, to provide that increases can only be granted once in a legislative quadrennium and to move the effective date to October 1, 2026.

House committees gave favorable reports to SB216, by Sen. Chambliss, which adds fire medics to the temporary return to work exception, and SB244, by Sen. Melson, which creates the crime of theft of employee retirement benefits.