

Week 1 Update

The Legislature convened for the first, second, and third legislative days of the Regular Session this week.

On Wednesday, the Governor's budgets were introduced and include full funding for ERS and TRS. Additionally, the Governor funded PEEHIP at \$1073 per member per month, which equates to an additional \$210 million in funding.

HB186, by Rep. Paschal, and SB68, by Sen. Weaver, were filed this week and modify RSA's disability retirement standards significantly for state troopers, law enforcement officers, deputies, and firefighters ("first responders"). Currently, all RSA members are eligible for disability retirement if they have more than ten years of service and are disabled under any circumstances. The disability retirement benefit is calculated using the member's final average salary and their years of service. These bills would allow modify the disability retirement benefit for first responders to allow them to draw a benefit calculated as if they had worked to age 65. It would also allow first responders with less than ten years of service to receive this benefit if they have been disabled due to injuries sustained in the line of duty.

Additionally, SB58, by Sen. Orr, was introduced this week and would require public employees who are found guilty of certain felony offenses related to his or her position to use retirement contributions to pay restitution. The bill also provides that these public employees must pay back any paid leave received during any investigation into the criminal offense.