

#### April 5 Legislative Update:

It was a busy week for the Legislature, with a lot of activity surrounding RSA-related legislation.

First, HB21 by Rep. Baker, which would implement a partial lump-sum option at retirement, was passed by the House and received its first reading in the Senate.

Second, the Ways and Means Education committee held a public hearing on HB77, by Rep. Baker, which would create a Tier III for TRS members. The Alabama Association of School Boards, Alabama Education Association, Council of Leaders in Alabama Schools, and School Superintendents of Alabama all spoke in support of the legislation and provided handouts about the bill. RSA provided testimony regarding the fiscal impact of the legislation and answered committee questions. No vote was taken on the bill.

Additionally, HB61 by Rep. Ledbetter and SB147 by Sen. Waggoner, which would allow local employers participating in ERS to provide Tier I benefits to Tier II members, were reported out of their respective committees.

Finally, four new bills that would impact RSA were filed:

- HB355 by Rep. Chestnut would exempt retired law enforcement officers rehired by municipalities from the return to work laws that limit the amount RSA retirees can earn from RSA-participating employers when they return to work and continue to draw a retirement benefit.
- HB359 by Rep. Ingram and SB206 by Sen. Ward would provide a one-time bonus to ERS retirees in the amount of \$2 per month of service with a \$300 minimum. Local employers that participate in ERS would have the option to provide the bonus to their retirees.
- SB180 by Sen. Smitherman would provide a 3% COLA to TRS retirees. RSA actuaries estimate that this COLA would cost \$529.8M to fund.