

Week 11 Update

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

The Legislature moved both budgets, which are now in position for final passage. The House passed the General Fund budget and related bills, which are pending concurrence in the Senate. The Senate passed the Education Trust Fund budget and related bills, and the House non-concurred in the budget and the supplement budget. Both bills now go to conference committee to work out the differences between the two bodies.

Three bills received final passage by the Legislature and have been sent to the Governor for her signature:

- HB19, by Rep. Kirkland, proposing a constitutional amendment to allow mayors in Jackson County to participate in ERS;
- SB12, by Sen. Elliott, removing the earnings limit for retirees who serve as elected officials in positions which are eligible to participate in ERS; and
- SB56, by Sen. Orr, requiring termination of retirement benefits for TRS members who have been convicted of certain sex offenses involving a student or a minor.

Additionally, the Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund committee brought up HB201 by Rep. Clouse, which would provide a process for granting and funding retiree COLAs. The committee adopted a substitute for the bill, which amends the retiree trust fund statutes to remove the prohibition on direct appropriations by the Legislature to these funds.