

Week 3 Update

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

On Tuesday, the Governor's budgets were introduced and included full funding for the ERS, TRS, and PEEHIP. Additionally, the Governor's supplemental Education Trust Fund appropriation bill was filed and included \$59 million to reimburse PEEHIP for its COVID expenses. This is in addition to the \$40 million appropriation for PEEHIP's COVID expenses in the ARPA bill passed during the recent special session. These combined appropriations will fully fund PEEHIP's requested reimbursement of \$99 million for its COVID expenses.

On Wednesday, the House Ways and Means General Fund committee gave favorable reports to two RSA-related bills, HB41, which makes temporary changes to the return to work laws, and HB66, which removes a time limit for purchasing uncredited FLC service.

Additionally, a number of new bills were filed that would impact RSA, including:

- HB119 by Rep. Mooney, which proposes a constitutional amendment to allow Shelby County commissioners to participate in the ERS.
- HB176 by Rep. Ingram and SB92 by Sen. Carnley, which extends the deadline for local units to elect to provide the retire bonus as authorized by Act 2022-229.
- SB68 by Sen. Chambliss, which provides State Police retirement benefits to all employees of ALEA who perform law enforcement duties and modifies the State Police Tier II benefits to allow 25-year retirement and to provide hazardous duty time.
- SB129 by Sen. Singleton, which provides FLC benefits to the Commissioner and deputy commissioners of the Department of Corrections who maintain APOST certification.