Week 5 Update

The Legislature completed the seventh, eighth, and ninth legislative days of the Regular Session this week.

Several RSA-related bills moved through the House this week. The House passed the following bills:

- HB26, by Rep. Wood, allows the transfer of ERS service to JRF at any time.
- HB69, by Rep. Pettus, 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 provides hazardous duty time.
- HB155, by Rep. Ellis, allows the surviving spouses of retirement-eligible members that die in active service to receive Option 2, which is the 100% of the benefit the member would have otherwise received.

These bills now move to the Senate for consideration in the Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee.

Five new bills dealing with RSA were filed this week:

- HB278, by Rep. Sells, and companion bill to SB188, by Sen. Elliott, allows RSA retirees to return to work with RSA participating employers and draw their retirement benefits without limitation, so long as the retiree has been separated from service for a year. The bill requires employers to pay the employer contribution for retirees returning to work and repeals the current return to work laws for ERS and TRS.
- HB293, by Rep. Kiel, removes the requirement that retirement benefit garnishments for restitution must run through the District Attorneys' Restitution Recovery Division.
- HB308, by Rep. Ingram, modifies ERS Tier II by allowing 30-year service retirement, providing hazardous duty time for FLC members, and increasing the regular member contribution rate to 6.5% and the FLC member contribution rate to 7.5%.
- HB329, by Rep. Lovvorn, reopens the provision allowing FLC members to purchase hazardous duty time for prior uncredited FLC service.
- SB210, by Sen. Marsh, prevents future RSA retirees from accruing service credit in a retirement system while drawing a benefit from another retirement system.