

Week 6 Update

The Legislature completed the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth legislative days of the Regular Session this week.

It was another busy week at the State House. The Legislature filed five new bills dealing with RSA. One of the bills, HB376 by Rep. Reynolds, would temporarily loosen the return to work restrictions to allow RSA-participating employers needed flexibility to hire retirees considering the labor shortage. The bill would allow retirees who return to work with RSA-participating employers to continue drawing benefits so long as they earned less than \$52,000 annually and had been separated from service for 3 months. There would be no requirement that the retirees be either temporary or part-time. Current retirees who perform duties for participating employers would automatically come under these new provisions. These new rules would sunset after five years, and the existing restrictions would again be applicable. This bill is scheduled to be considered by the House Ways and Means General Fund Committee on Wednesday, February 23.

The other RSA bills filed this week included:

- HB346 by Rep. Ellis, removes the deadline for local units that participate in the ERS to elect to provide Tier I benefits to Tier II employees.
- HB367 by Rep. Treadaway, allows retired law enforcement officers to return to work as correctional officers without restriction while also drawing their retirement benefits.
- HB373 by Rep. Alexander, proposes a constitutional amendment to allow city of Bessemer elected officials to participate in the ERS.
- SB238 by Sen. Hatcher, proposes a constitutional amendment to allow Montgomery County mayors to participate in the ERS.

Additionally, the Senate Finance Taxation and Education Committee gave a favorable report to SB30 by Sen. Singleton, which would provide a \$2 per month of service bonus for TRS retirees.

Finally, the House Ways and General Fund committee gave favorable reports to two bills: HB308 by Rep Ingram to modify ERS Tier II and HB329 by Rep. Lovvorn to reopen the provision allowing for the purchase of uncredited hazardous duty time for FLC members.