

Week 8 Update

The Legislature convened for the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth legislative days of the Regular Session this week.

The Senate passed the Education Trust Fund budget (SB88), which fully funds TRS and PEEHIP. Additionally, the Senate also passed the ETF supplemental appropriation bill (SB87), which appropriates \$59M to PEEHIP as reimbursement for COVID expenses. When coupled with the \$40M appropriation from ARPA, this fully funds PEEHIP's request for reimbursement of its eligible expenses. These bills now move to the House for consideration.

The Legislature passed one bill related to RSA, HB233 by Rep. Almond, which authorizes the city of Tuscaloosa to elect for its fire and police retirement plan to join ERS.

The Governor signed two RSA-related bills:

- HB66 by Rep. Lovvorn, which reopens the provision allowing FLC members to purchase hazardous duty time for prior uncredited FLC service.
- SB68 by Sen. Chambliss, which provides State Police retirement benefits to all ALEA employees who perform law enforcement duties and makes improvements to the State Police Tier II benefits.

The Legislature also introduced two new bills that would affect RSA:

- HB437 by Rep. Shedd, which establishes a process for granting and funding benefit increases for ERS and TRS retirees.
- SB295 by Sen. Chesteen, which proposes a constitutional amendment to allow mayors in Geneva County to participate in ERS.