



LEGISLATIVE

Update

State Employees Association of North Carolina • www.seanc.org

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May 21, 2010
Volume 27, Issue 2

Senate Passes Budget, Leaving Out Provisions for State Employees

The 2010 session of the General Assembly has barely started and the Senate passed their version of a state budget that cuts state employees out of the picture...again! Gov. Bev Perdue released her budget proposal a few weeks before the legislature convened, and she included provisions to pay state employees back for the 10 hours she borrowed last year. The day before lawmakers returned to session, Senate leadership announced to the media that the 0.5 percent included in the governor's budget would not be in the Senate's budget.

Many state employees have not been able to take the 10 hours of time off because of their job responsibilities. The Senate also included provisions giving the UNC president furlough authority at the universities. It will be impossible for employees to understand the "need" for furloughs when the university is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on special contracts, such as a consultant to find a new UNC president.

Where the governor's budget increases pay for probation and parole employees, the Senate budget proposes a pilot program that studies privatizing probation services. Studies have shown that privatization does not save money. And it is mystifying why the Senate would take away the governor's improvement in pay for these employees when it jeopardizes the safety of our communities when the state can't attract high-quality employees for these jobs.

The Senate budget also failed to improve upon the \$20 million contribution to the retirement system, although the system requires \$181 million this year to be properly funded. As we reported last week, SEANC Retiree Director Mitch Leonard is heading the fight to get the funding with the support of SEANC's legislative staff.

Lawmakers need to hear from the people who are directly affected by their decisions. Call your senators and tell them you're unhappy with their budget recommendations; call your representatives and ask them to include the payback in their budget. The phone number for the General Assembly is 919-733-4111. If our lawmakers do not hear from state employees and retirees, they will assume you do not care how you're treated. Pick up the phone and call your legislators, send an e-mail or pay a personal visit on SEANC Lobby Day on June 8. Find your legislators at www.seanc.org.

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