



LEGISLATIVE Update

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

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House Budget Preview RIFs University Personnel

The North Carolina House of Representatives Appropriations Committee held a public hearing on Monday, May 24, for citizens to voice their concerns regarding the state budget. However, SEANC lobbyists noted that 75 percent of legislators were no shows, leaving the distinct impression that this “request for public input” was nothing more than a publicity stunt by the House.

Less than two days later, the House budget subcommittees began offering their versions of next week’s budget. Of extreme concern is that 1,700 UNC system jobs are on the chopping block at management’s discretion in order to save public school jobs. “I got news for you, university jobs are education jobs too,” said SEANC Executive Director Dana Cope. It is unknown at this time exactly how many of the jobs are filled and how many of the position are vacant.

Three State Health Plan (SHP) bills were filed at SEANC’s request this week by Reps. Nelson Dollar (R-Wake), Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke) and Pat Hurley (R-Randolph). HB 1968 would repeal the BMI penalty from the SHP. HJR 1969 would open the secret contract between Blue Cross Blue Shield, and HB 2037 would move the oversight of the SHP from the Legislature to the Department of Insurance.

The House will convene on regular schedule Monday at 7:00 p.m. with a skeleton crew and will not take any votes on legislation. The House intends to roll out its version of the state budget by mid-week and complete their votes with a final budget by Friday, June 4. Anything in the House and Senate budget proposals that differs will then move to a House-Senate Conference Committee to hammer out the details. The House has made no announcements regarding the retirement system contributions.

Now is the time to contact legislators on the budget and the State Health Plan bills to affect some change this year. Pick up the phone and call or e-mail the listed legislators, and let your voice be heard. Don’t forget to sign up for Lobby Day on June 8 at www.seanc.org. Lobby Day will be THE chance for state employees and retirees to speak out on cuts and speak up for our health plan!

Health Committee:

Chairman Bob England 919-733-5749
Chairwoman Verla Insko 919-733-7208

Rules Committee:

Chairman Bill Owens 919-733-0010
Vice Chairman Rick Glazier 919-733-5601
Vice Chairman Dewey Hill 919-733-5830
Vice Chairman Paul Luebke 919-733-7663
Vice Chairman Deborah Ross 919-733-5773

House Appropriations:

Senior Chairman Mickey Michaux 919-715-2528
Chairwoman Alma Adams 919-733-5902
Chairwoman Martha Alexander 919-733-5807
Chairman Jim Crawford 919-733-824
Chairman Phil Haire 919-715-3005
Chairwoman Maggie Jeffus 919-733-5191
Chairman Joe Tolson 919-715-3024
Chairman Doug Yongue 919-733-5821

Insurance Committee:

Chairman Bruce Goforth 919-733-5746
Chairman Michael Wray 919-733-5662

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