



LEGISLATIVE *Update*

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

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Gov. Perdue Vetoes Budget; Pay Raises, COLA Now in Jeopardy Act Today by Contacting Your Legislator!

Gov. Beverly Perdue announced at a press conference this morning that she is vetoing the 2012-2013 budget passed last week by the N.C. General Assembly. Perdue said she wants the legislature to spend an additional \$117 million to spend on public schools and a few other items. Legislative Republicans claim the money she identified is gathered through accounting gimmicks and would put the budget out of balance.

What does the veto mean for state employees and retirees?

The budget contained a 1.2-percent pay raise for active employees as well as a 1-percent cost-of-living adjustment for retirees. These increases would be “on the line” if the House does not have sufficient votes to override a budget veto.

For purposes of veto override discussions, it should be noted that the Senate majority has enough GOP members for a veto override without convincing any Democrats to vote for it, but the House needs Democrats to override. The number of votes needed to override is a 3/5 majority. The exact number of votes that is in the House varies depending on how many Republicans and Democrats are present on any given day. If all members are present the number of votes need is 72.

Senate leader Phil Berger and Speaker Thom Tillis have asserted all week that they are “going home” if the governor vetoes the budget and they do not have the votes to override. This would mean last year’s budget would remain in place and state employees and retirees would not receive pay raises or COLAs.

So what happens next is up to the General Assembly. Call your representative in the N.C. House and ask them to override the veto so that state employees and retirees will receive a pay raise for the first time in four years!

The main number at the N.C. General Assembly is (919)733-4111. Information on contact information as well as who your House representative is can be found on the SEANC website at www.seanc.org.