



LEGISLATIVE *Update*

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

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A flurry of bills filed ahead of Senate deadline

This week several bills of importance to state employees and retirees were filed in the state Senate in advance of Thursday's deadline.

Most notable among them was SB 618, The State Personnel Modernization Act, which would serve as an extensive overhaul of the SPA and was requested by Office of State Personnel Director Neal Alexander. SEANC General Counsel Tom Harris and Legislative Affairs Director Ardis Watkins met with Alexander earlier in the week to go over line-by-line changes to the Act proposed in SB 618. This meeting followed two earlier meetings between Alexander and SEANC Executive Director Dana Cope.

Harris, who has worked for 30 years with the SPA – 18 of which were spent in senior positions in the state Department of Labor where he worked extensively with SPA matters, called the bill “a comprehensive rewrite of the act.”

“Clearly, this is a major change to the current act,” Harris said. “The SPA has been around a long time and is so important to how the state conducts its business. There is no need to rush to make drastic changes. If changes are necessary, they should be well thought out and take into account their impact on the employees the SPA protects.”

SEANC's legislative staff is currently reviewing several other bills filed in the Senate this week to judge whether they are beneficial or detrimental to state employees. These bills include:

- SB 582, which would protect from disclosure as public record some information concerning law enforcement officers
- SB 599, a technical corrections bill pertaining to state retirement systems
- SB 600, a technical corrections bill pertaining to the State Health Plan
- SB 624, a bill to allow the governor or the general assembly to grant up to five days leave to state employees affected by emergencies
- SB 680, a bill to allow retroactive membership in state retirement systems
- SB 686, a bill to protect public employees who report waste, mismanagement and/or wrongdoing

SEANC will continue to monitor the progress of these and all other bills of importance to state employees throughout this legislative session. The House's filing deadline is scheduled for April 10.

Also this week, the State Treasurer name Mona Moon as the Executive Administrator of the State Health Plan. Moon has been serving in this capacity on an interim basis since February. She is the former chief financial officer for the SHP.

The SEANC Legislative Update is published when the N.C. General Assembly is in session by SEANC's Legislative Affairs Department. For more information, contact Legislative Affairs Director Ardis Watkins at awatkins@seanc.org.