



Georgia State Retirees Association

*Advocating for Active & Retired
State Employees and Educators*

(www.mygsra.com) – 770-312-2799



**John Keys
Chuck Freedman**



Legislative Effectiveness (2 of 3)

- Get involved in campaigns and interact with candidate and key staff. Does not require monetary donations.
- Do what it takes to establish relations (personal and on behalf of GSRA).
- Maintain contact (personal and on behalf of GSRA).
- Respond to action alerts and action watches (more later).



Legislative Effectiveness (3 of 3)

- Pay attention to newsletters and Facebook postings (Like and SHARE them). Follow up with chapter members to ensure that they are reading newsletters also.
 - Invite legislators to meetings.
 - Invite PAGE/GREA members to meetings.
 - Attend GSRA Day at the Capitol and evening reception.
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Legislative Report 1 of 2

- HB 240 – DCH Transparency/Customer Advisory Council – Stuck in Rules 
- HB 217 - Permits Pension Fund investments in “comingled” and similar funds – Passed House (?)
- HB 269/270 – Selection of TRS/ERS executive director by boards – Failed (?)
- HB 383 – Withdrawn in committee 



Legislative Report 2 of 2

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- HB 445 – Tax Reform – Failed 
 - HR 305 – Arbitrarily limit state revenue growth – Failed 
 - HR 502 – Earmark special revenues - Failed 
 - SB 145 – Require 1 DCH board member to be an SHBP member – Passed 
 - SB 152 – Create a “GSEPS” for TRS – On hold for fiscal analysis (?)
 - COLAs – None 
 - Non-cert school staff – retain coverage  No fund 



GSRA Lobbying Structure

-
- President – Legislative Committee Chair and other Capitol-active Legislative Committee members (3) – Other P&O Legislative Committee members (3) – Chapter Legislative Committee members (about 60)
 - Retained Legislative Consultant (Lobbyist – Nelson Mullins [Chuck Clay and group])
 - Companion organizations – GDOTEA, GPHSA, PAGE, GREA, GAE, sheriffs, others
 - ERS, TRS, legislator friends



Tracking Bills

- Gen. Assy. bill documentation – first readers, composites, bills
- Meeting documentation – website meeting notices/agendas; alerts from selected committee chairs’ admins
- Streaming video from Gen. Assy. and GPB
- “Lawmakers”



Critiquing Bills

- Nelson Mullins (Elizabeth Newcomb) reads bills and adds relevant ones to weekly report. Notes content, sponsors, status
- Discuss with fellow legislative committee members, knowledgeable P&O committee members, companion organizations
- Sometimes discuss with bill's author



Advocacy Software – Email

From: Bill Tomlinson <President@mygsra.com> Sent: Sat 10/15/2011 5:3
To: bobbiejennett@windstream.net
Cc:
Subject: [test] Support SHBP Funding for FY 2012 & FY 2013

 [Forward to a friend](#)

Action Alert Title Here

Dear Bj,

Department of Community Health Commissioner Cook is requesting \$60 million additional SHBP funding for FY 2012 and \$69 million additional SHBP funding for FY 2013. GSRA members should support these budget requests.

Problem:

The SHBP funding for FY 2012 was short \$280 million, and as a result several changes have been made for January 1, 2012. This includes raising our premiums by 17% to 28% or changing to a Wellness option with only an 11% increase. In addition, our out-of-pocket costs were increased. The SHBP is still \$60 million short for 2012 and \$69 million short for FY 2013.

Solution:

The immediate solution is for the State to appropriate additional funds for the two fiscal years.

Action Needed:

Please ask your Legislative Representatives to support Commissioner Cook's Funding Requests for the SHBP

Deadline for responding: Please take action by *[October 19, 2011]*

[act now](#)

NOTE: Do not use your email program to forward this message to others as it has been personalized with your account information. To spread the word about this issue, please use the "Forward to a friend" link above.

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Verify Your Email

May Receive Notice to Verify Your Email



Georgia State Retirees Association

P.O. Box 108
Bethlehem, GA 30620

Please verify your email address before taking action.

Click **YES** if your email address is **bobbiejbennett@windstream.net**.

Click **NO** if this is not your email address.
You'll be able to sign up or log in before you take action.



Georgia State Retirees Association

P.O. Box 418
Savannah, GA 31402

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Saturday, October 15, 2011

SHBP Funding

Issue

Support \$60 Million additional SHBP funding in FY 2012 & \$69 Million in FY 2013

background

I ask that you support the \$60 million and \$69 million additional funds for the State Health Benefit Plan in FY 2012 and in FY 2013, respectively.

My premium rate this January 1st is already increasing by 17% while my out-of-pocket costs are also increasing. In addition, my premiums have increased over the last 2 to 3 years by about 10% each year and my benefits cut. If these funds are not provided, what will the SHBP do? Go up on my premiums again or not pay claims.

I respectfully ask that you support funding the SHBP--it is important to us who depend on the SHBP for buying our medical care.

message sent to

- Senator Bill Cowart
- Representative Bruce Williamson

- Send a copy to me

message

Please review the message below. Click "Send Message" to deliver this message to your selected targets. You are encouraged to personalize the message by adding your own comments.

Support Additional Funding for State Health Benefit Plan

Dear Senator Cowart,

I ask that you support the \$60 million and \$69 million additional funds for the State Health Benefit Plan in FY 2012 and in FY 2013, respectively.

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Bj Bennett
3175 Hoarn Rd NW
Monroe, GA 30655-4373
770-266-6107

[send message](#)

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Georgia State Retirees Association

P.O. Box 108
Bethlehem, GA 30620

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Bj Bennett
3175 Hearn Rd NW
Monroe, GA 30656-4373
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send message

Spread the word:

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DCH and Retiree Health Insurance (1 of 4)

- FUTURE OF MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS
 - Are fully insured between insurance co. and SHBP. Ins. co. is reimburse by Medicare
 - Will be impacted in totally unknown way by Affordable Care Act (ACA [aka Obamacare])
 - DCH unable to make accurate cost projections



DCH and Retiree Health Insurance (2 of 4)

- OPB HEALTH INSURANCE STUDY (see http://opb.georgia.gov/sites/opb.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/Final%20ZBB.PDF, pp. 36 – 37 for both pre-Medicare and Medicare retirees) due 6/30/15
 - State cost driven analysis, nor consideration of member cost
 - Probability of change to “defined contribution” and move to private exchange.
-



DCH and Retiree Health Insurance (3 of 4)

- PROBLEMS
 - Less coverage, increased out of pocket costs
 - % less state contribution to premiums over time – accelerated increased member premium costs
 - All investment risk shifted to members
 - WATCH REGENTS (Planned change 1/16)
 - SHBP members have better legal protections than Regents employees
-



DCH and Retiree Health Insurance (4 of 4)

- Possible Mechanics of Private Exchange
 - DCH contracts with private vendor to select and contract with insurance companies
 - DCH establishes an HRA with fixed \$ amount – not required to increase in future
 - Contractor provides benefit options from which retirees choose
 - State unloads customer service requirements
-



Get Active in GSRA

- Pick out candidates to support and join their campaigns. Maintain contact once elected.
- Attend our Annual Meeting August __ in Savannah
- Come to GSRA day at the Capitol and GSRA/GCWA legislative reception Feb 3, 2016.
- Stay informed.
- Respond to action alerts.