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**LSG Floor Report For General Calendar- Tuesday, August 1, 2017**

<p><b>HB 20</b>          By:          Ashby /          Darby /          VanDeaver          / Zerwas /          Howard / et          al.</p>	<p>Relating to an appropriation of money from the economic stabilization fund to decrease participants' health insurance costs for certain health benefit plans administered by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>This bill seeks to help address the shift of costs to retirees and stop putting off the obligation of our state and help our retired educators. In this biennium, the retired educators will take up around \$520 million of the cost for TRS Care while the State and Local ISD's will be obligated to pay \$480 million. During the 85<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, Teachers Retirement System (TRS) projected a deficit of \$750 million deficit for TRS Care in the next biennium. This is an economic solvency issue that needs to be addressed by the Legislature.</p> <p>HB 20 will appropriate \$212.7 million dollars from the Economic Stabilization Fund to help the costs afflicting our state's retiree and their families. \$115 million will be used to reduce deductibles by \$1,500 for the pre-65 retiree category or non-Medicare retirees. \$71 million to reduce spouse premiums by \$100. \$18.7 million maximum amount of out of pocket expenses for the pre-65 retiree category. \$5.3 million to reduce covered child premiums by \$25 for all plans, and \$2.736 million to reduce premiums by \$200 for adults with disabled dependents. This appropriation is a good first step in ensuring the promise we've made to those who deserve it the most is kept.</p> <p>During the 85<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, the Texas Legislature made the most conservative withdrawal from the ESF in the history of the fund. This withdrawal proposed in HB 20 is a modest and necessary amount that will ensure that TRS Care doesn't miss a payment and retirees receive the funds to address their healthcare needs. There are around 207,000 retired educators and 54,000 dependents whose health insurance is at risk if the legislature does not take action now.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b>          Evaluated by          Ana Ramon          210-382-4295  <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 80</b>          By:          Darby /          Guillen /          Oliveira / et          al.</p>	<p>Relating to a cost-of-living adjustment applicable to certain benefits paid by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>In 2013, TRS was found to be actuarially sound and the legislature provided a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to educators who retired before August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004. This provided a much-needed financial boost to the 200,000 retirees and their families who qualified for the benefit. Unfortunately, since the passage of the legislation in 2013 there are some retirees who have not received a COLA in over a decade and are facing increasing living expenses with little reprieve. HB 80 would make a one-time COLA to retired educators and designated annuitants who did not benefit from the 2013 legislation. Many of these retired educators or family members receiving a monthly death annuity are having a hard time meeting their financial obligations. This adjustment will be payable to retired educators or designated annuitants who retired after Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004 and on or before Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. This bill is estimated to impact close to 100,000 TRS members and their families. The COLA would be the lesser of a 3% increase of the monthly benefit or \$100 per month. The bill also details those who qualify for the COLA and who would not be effected by this bill.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b>          Evaluated by          Ana Ramon          210-382-4295  <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a></p>