



Legislative Update-Retirement-Health Care Subsidy

On Monday, April 7, 2008 the Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee held a public hearing on House Bill 1643, an act which extends the retirement day to July 1, 2009 for those who otherwise qualify for the post-retirement health care subsidy.

Opposition from the Local Government Center, formerly the NH Municipal Association, the NH School Boards Association, and two legislators did not overcome the testimony in favor of the bill presented by NEA-NH and NH-AFT. The retirement representatives offered very fair testimony about the system's inability to predict any extra costs until May.

Immediately following the public hearing the committee voted 4-1 to pass the bill. The legislation will now go to the full Senate for a vote. If it passes there it will have one more public hearing in the Senate Finance Committee. Should they recommend passage it goes back to the full Senate for one final vote. If it passes there then it goes to the Governor's desk for his signature. If the Senate does not pass the bill then it is dead for the session.

House Bill 1645, an act that will make changes to the retirement system is scheduled for public hearings over the next four consecutive Wednesdays. Senate action on the bill will occur after the committee's work is done.