



STATE EMPLOYEES' INSURANCE BOARD

PO Box 304900 • Montgomery, AL 36130-4900
201 South Union Street, Suite 200 • Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334-263-8341 or 1-866-836-9737 • Fax: 334-263-8541
www.alseib.org

Joe N. Dickson
Chairman

William L. Ashmore
CEO

February 27, 2017

Legislative Update

By: Sally Corley

The Alabama Legislature has completed 6 of 30 legislative days for the 2017 Regular Session. There are several big issues on the agenda this year, including: prison reform, reapportionment and Medicaid funding. Thankfully, the outlook for the General Fund budget is more optimistic than usual, but we are still early in the process. We are pleased that the Governor's budget includes the requested rate of \$930 for SEIB. However, there are some changes at the federal level that may change the tone of the General Fund conversation quickly. For example, the federal government currently provides 100% funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, but the state may be required to provide partial funding for the program in the coming years. We will certainly keep you posted as this discussion develops.

Below is a brief description of some of the bills we are tracking this session. Please know these weekly legislative updates are meant to keep you informed of legislation that may affect you, and they are provided to demonstrate the SEIB's commitment to the goal of providing the best health care coverage available at an affordable rate for our members.

BUDGET:

HB155/SB150 - FY18 GENERAL FUND BUDGET:

The biggest item on our legislative agenda each year is the General Fund budget. The Governor's budget funds SEIB at the requested rate of \$930 per active employee per month. Last year, health insurance funding was the only benefit for state employees that passed the Legislature. Funding for health insurance provides a benefit that helps all employees equally and also provides a benefit for retirees. We are hopeful that the Legislature will keep this rate for SEIB.

Don't forget that if you qualify for "other employer health insurance coverage" through a spouse or another job, please contact your [SEIB Advisor](#) today to find out about savings opportunities that are immediately available to you.

STATUS: Introduced in both chambers.

HOUSE:

HJR5 Lee – Budget Reform Committee Resolution:

Extends the duration of the Pension Committee to April 1, 2018. The Committee reviewed pensions and retiree health insurance benefits, and made recommendations on legislation to address these policy areas. To date, no legislation has been introduced regarding retiree health insurance benefits.

STATUS: Passed House and awaits action by the Senate Rules Committee.

The State Employees' Insurance Board complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-855-216-3144.

注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-855-216-3144。

HB177 Pettus – Combine SEIB and PEEHIP Boards:

Combines SEIB and PEEHIP under a new Public Employee Health Insurance Board (PEHIB). It is a 94-page bill that creates a new Board to administer both the State Employees and Public Education Employees' health insurance plans, and it changes references in the Code to SEIB and PEEHIP to now read as PEHIB.

STATUS: Introduced in the House

HB284 Patterson – ABA Therapy Coverage for Autism:

This bill specifically names SEIB and PEEHIP and requires mandated coverage of ABA Therapy with no annual cap on the amount. This is the most recent of three bills relating to ABA Therapy coverage that have been filed this session.

STATUS: Introduced in the House.

SENATE:

SB114/HB163 Pittman/McMillan – Community Colleges:

This bill gives the Community College system corporate status and contains language to ensure all current and future employees maintain their current benefit structure. The main office employees have SEIB coverage while most community college employees have PEEHIP coverage. An amendment was added to both bills in committee to make sure that this benefit structure remains the same.

STATUS: SB114 passed the Senate as amended this week, and HB163 is on the calendar to be considered in the House next week.