



STATE EMPLOYEES' INSURANCE BOARD

PO Box 304900 • Montgomery, AL 36130-4900
201 South Union Street, Suite 200 • Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334-263-8300 • Fax: 334-263-8711
www.alseib.org

Joe N. Dickson
Chairman

William L. Ashmore
CEO

March 13, 2017

Legislative Update

By: Sally Corley

We are now 1/3rd of the way through the 2017 Regular Session. In the House Ways and Means General Fund Committee this past week, we got to see our first peek at the General Fund Budget. Thankfully, SEIB was given the requested state rate of \$930. We are hopeful that the requested rate of \$930 will remain in place as the budget moves through the legislative process. The General Fund Budget will be debated in the House on Tuesday, March 14th. We expect to see the Senate begin work on the Education Budget this week.

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 current version of the General Fund Budget funds SEIB at the requested rate of \$930 per active employee per month. 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: Will be debated in the House on Tuesday, March 14th.

HOUSE:

SJR52 Marsh – Budget Reform Task Force:

Extends the duration of the Budget Reform Committee to the fifth legislative day of 2018, and requires an interim report from the Task Force on the last day of the 2017 session. The Task Force will meet monthly. The Committee has gathered a lot of data on state agencies and the budget, and they now have additional time to review this information.

STATUS: Passed both chambers and forwarded to the Governor. Task Force is scheduled to meet this week.

HB177 Pettus – Combine SEIB and PEEHIP Boards:

Combines SEIB and PEEHIP under a new Public Employee Health Insurance Board (PEHIB). This 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 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 one of three bills relating to ABA Therapy coverage that have been filed this session.

STATUS: Had a public hearing in the House Committee on Insurance.

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 awaits third reading in the House, and HB163 awaits action by Senate Committee on Education and Youth Affairs.