

2017 Legislative Tracker

Final

Legislation introduced in the 2017 session that would impact the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS, the retirement system) is listed below. For details on a particular bill, visit the State of New Hampshire General Court website at: <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/>

BILL #	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	PRIMARY SPONSOR	STATUS
2017 NHRS-RELATED BILLS			
HB 294	This bill requires that the actuarial and professional costs related to statutorily mandated analysis of proposed legislation done by the retirement system be reimbursed from general funds not otherwise appropriated. Currently, these costs are paid from the NHRS trust fund.	Rep. Katherine Rogers	5/18/17: Senate, on a roll call vote, accepted committee recommendation of inexpedient to legislate (ITL), 13-9. Bill is dead.
HB 366	This bill modifies the calculation of average final compensation for retirement system members who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 or who had not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012.	Rep. Barbara Shaw	3/1/17: House ED&A Committee voted to retain bill in committee, 20-0. No further action is expected this session.
HB 369	This bill extends the period of amortization for the unfunded accrued liability of the New Hampshire retirement system by 10 years.	Rep. Donald LeBrun	1/25/17: House ED&A Committee voted to retain bill in committee, 18-0. No further action is expected this session.
HB 405	This bill requires the upcoming decennial retirement commission established in RSA 100-A:57 to review the following issues: the feasibility and cost of eliminating the reduction in a Group I retiree's retirement allowance at the age of 65; the current plan for paying off the retirement system's unfunded actuarial accrued liability; the effects of retirees returning to work, and; the effects that changes to employer contribution rates have on municipalities.	Rep. David Danielson	6/30/17: Signed into law by the Governor (Chapter 0193).
HB 413	This bill requires the state to pay 15 percent of employer contributions for teachers, police officers and firefighters employed by political subdivisions beginning in fiscal year 2018.	Rep. Renny Cushing	3/16/17: House Finance Committee voted to retain bill in committee. No further action is expected this session.
HB 415	This bill requires the state to pay 35 percent of employer contributions for teachers, police officers and firefighters employed by political subdivisions beginning in fiscal year 2021. This bill establishes an income tax. This bill also reduces or repeals other taxes.	Rep. Paul Henle	2/15/17: House, on a voice vote, accepted House ED&A Committee recommendation of inexpedient to legislate (ITL). Bill is dead.
HB 418	This bill repeals the duties of the State Retiree Health Plan Commission to analyze premium contributions under RSA 100-A:56, III(c) and (d). (Note: Although this commission is included in RSA 100-A, NHRS has no role in it; state retiree medical benefits are administered by the Risk Management Unit of the Department of Administrative Services, not the retirement system.)	Rep. Lynne Ober	6/2/17: Signed into law by the Governor (Chapter 0066).

BILL #	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	PRIMARY SPONSOR	STATUS
HB 421	This bill allows the Board of Trustees of the retirement system to revoke a member's benefits if the member is convicted of a crime related to his or her public office or public employment which occurred during active service and for which the member resigned or was dismissed from employment.	Rep. Valerie Fraser	2/23/17: House ED&A Committee voted to retain bill in committee, 20-0. No further action is expected this session.
HB 425	This bill requires the retirement system to use the assumed rate of return of 7.75 percent for calculating employer contribution rates for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and to recertify employer rates to reflect the rate of return change.	Rep. Mariellen MacKay	2/2/17: House, on a voice vote, accepted House ED&A Committee recommendation of inexpedient to legislate (ITL). Bill is dead.
HB 542	This bill requires a retired member of the retirement system who becomes employed part-time with a retirement system employer to pay a fee to the retirement system.	Rep. Mark Proulx	3/8/17: House, on a voice vote, accepted House ED&A Committee recommendation of inexpedient to legislate (ITL). Bill is dead.
HB 543	This bill prohibits a retiree in the New Hampshire Retirement System from working part-time for the same employer from which he or she retired.	Rep. David Danielson	3/8/17: House, on a voice vote, accepted House ED&A Committee recommendation of inexpedient to legislate (ITL). Bill is dead.
HB 548	This bill changes the normal retirement age for non-vested and newly hired Group I employees to be the normal retirement age under the federal Social Security Act.	Rep. Neal Kurk	3/8/17: House, on a roll call vote of 204-121, accepted House ED&A Committee recommendation of inexpedient to legislate (ITL). Bill is dead.
HB 561	This bill (1) requires a retirement system employer to notify NHRS when it learns of instances where a retiree exceeds the statutory definition of part-time; (2) allows the NHRS executive director (E.D.) to suspend a member's retirement allowance for exceeding the statutory limitations for part-time employment in RSA 100-A:1, XXXIV, with the provision that the suspension may be waived or reduced for "good cause"; (3) allows the E.D. to assess a penalty on an employer that knew that a retiree inaccurately recorded or failed to record his or her time; and (4) requires employers to notify NHRS and pay the portion of the employer contribution rate attributable to the unfunded actuarial accrued liability and medical subsidy for part-time or interim employees working in a position substantially similar to a position that was formerly a full-time, NHRS membership position, and was filled within 12 months of the vacancy.	Rep. Neal Kurk	5/11/17: Senate, on a voice vote, accepted committee recommendation to re-refer bill to committee. No further action is expected this session.
HB 593	This bill grants Group II status to certain positions in the department of corrections. Persons employed in those positions with service prior to the effective date shall be eligible for split benefits.	Rep. Renny Cushing	2/23/17: House ED&A Committee voted to retain bill in committee, 17-3. No further action is expected this session.
HB 631	This bill establishes a cash balance pension plan for retirement system members who begin service with the state on or after July 1, 2017. Members of political subdivision employers hired on or after July 1, 2017, would become cash balance plan members if their employers elect to participate in the plan.	Rep. Neal Kurk	2/8/17: House ED&A Committee voted to retain bill in committee, 18-1. No further action is expected this session.

BILL #	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	PRIMARY SPONSOR	STATUS
HB 644	This bill extends the interest and dividends tax to capital gains, increases exemptions for the tax, and appropriates \$45 million per year, beginning July 1, 2017, to offset political subdivision employer contributions to NHRS.	Rep. Richard Ames	2/15/17: House, on a roll call vote, accepted committee recommendation of inexpedient to legislate (ITL), 200-137. Bill is dead.
SB 140	This bill establishes three-year terms for member of the retirement system's Independent Investment Committee.	Sen. Donna Soucy	6/19/17: Signed into law by the Governor (Chapter 0151).
SB 219	This bill grants a one-time additional allowance of \$500 to NHRS retirees who meet all of the following criteria: (1) retired with more than 20 years of service; (2) has been retired for five years or more as of 7/1/17; (3), receives an annual pension benefit of \$30,000 or less. The bill makes a general fund appropriation for the retirement allowances.	Sen. Sharon Carson	3/16/17: Senate, on a roll call vote, accepted committee recommendation to re-refer bill to committee, 13-10. No further action is expected this session.
SB 231	This bill allows a part-time judge of the circuit court to retire and collect a pension under the provisions of RSA 100-A and elect senior active or judicial referee status.	Sen. Sharon Carson	3/16/17: Senate, on a voice vote, accepted a floor motion of inexpedient to legislate (ITL). Bill is dead.
<p>Committee Key: ED&A = Executive Departments & Administration; Location Key: LOB = Legislative Office Building; SH = State House.</p>			