

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Week 8**  
**Charlie Roberts**  
**March 14, 2009**

**As expected, the Legislative Crossover Day has come and gone with no new fiscal program for our membership. In my first meeting with new House Retirement Chairman Howard Maxwell, he praised our association and the professionalism of our leadership. He also outlined the financial status of our state and concluded that legislation with a cost factor would have to wait until our economy changes. Rep Maxwell has been an excellent chairman this year and I appreciate his positive leadership.**

**Since Week 1, I have reviewed and followed every educator retirement bill filed and attended every meeting of both the House and Senate Retirement Committees. As in the past, I have continued to support TRS and ERS investments, oppose Venture Capital, question the ERS new hire and contribution programs and review proposed changes in other state retirement programs. I am greatly concerned with the changes coming in healthcare but can only advise you they are moving fast. Jeff and Steve from TRS have also attended every meeting and I appreciate the cordial relationship we share.**

**The next 10 Legislative Days can be very dangerous. Tuesday is the 31st day and the first day of combining bills or piggybacking. This activity is legal and can open doors that were closed in the first 30 days. I will continue my emphasis on defense while watching for tax alterations, investment changes, Venture Capital proposals, and program limitations. This web site will issue a " Piggyback Alert " and Dr. Sloan has created an Instant Alert Network for the Governing Board and Local Unit Presidents should we need membership assistance. I will be in contact with our Executive Director on a daily basis for the remainder of the session.**

**There will be another UPDATE next week.**