

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Week 7
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3/7/09

Retirement took another back seat to politics this week in Atlanta. House Retirement did not meet and the Senate Retirement Committee only addressed two bills that were not related to education retirement.

On Wednesday, I met with the Lobbyist for both GAE and PAGE to discuss SB 122. This fast moving legislation has caused concern among some retired groups. The bill was shifted from Ways and Means to the Appropriations Committee and appears to be compliance legislation related to changes in Health Benefits. The bill is scheduled for a vote in the Senate on Monday and we will monitor progress as it moves into the House committees.

This is truly a great time to be a retired educator. School systems are faced with major financial problems. Positions are being cut, programs are being dropped, contracts are being delayed and may not have salaries on them, Public School Choice and Vouchers have strong legislative support and even National Certified Teacher supplements are in question. Tough times are not only here but this week we found out that we have elected members of our own General Assembly that have not been paying their taxes.

We do have one ray of sunlight. On Thursday, The House voted on a new Adjournment Calendar. It sets a 40 day schedule and ends this session on April 3. The Senate has not agreed but feelings are they will. I will let you know in the next UPDATE.