



## New Hampshire House of Representatives and State Senate

### Joint News Release

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## House and Senate agree on retirement reforms

*Conferees make technical changes, bill heads for final floor votes*

(Concord) After three weeks of negotiations, House and Senate conferees agreed on reforms to the state retirement system found in Senate Bill 3. Members representing both houses worked out their differences, signing off on the Committee of Conference report this afternoon. The amended bill now goes back to the full House and Senate for a final vote.

**SB3 will:**

- Limit the impact on retired members and those already vested in the system.
- Ensure cities and towns can continue to hire necessary personnel on a part-time basis.
- Put an end to spiking by curtailing the use of extra and special duty pay and eliminating the inclusion of end of career buyouts for non-vested and new hires.
- Cap the annual pensions benefit at \$120,000 or 85% of average final compensation.
- Immediately begin to improve the actuarial health of the system by slightly increasing rates for all Group I and II employees.

SB 3 prime sponsor Sen. Jeb Bradley, R-Wolfeboro, thanked all the members of committee for their efforts but singled out Rep. Ken Hawkins, R-Bedford, for championing the issue of retirement reform years before SB 3 came along. Bradley said, "We understood this issue must be tackled because the current system is unsustainable and will cost taxpayers millions if not resolved."

Commenting on what SB 3 will mean, Hawkins said, "For years we have worked toward comprehensive reform and we are happy to finally have it. An unfunded retirement system is an unfair burden on our working families and it needed to be addressed. This is a responsible step forward to ensure that the retirement system works for retirees, employees, future employees, and the people of New Hampshire."

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