



New Hampshire Senate

News Release

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Media Contact:

Kate Giaquinto

kate.giaquinto@leg.state.nh.us

(603) 271-3043

Senators praise protections for NH retiree health care system

Concord, NH – Today, the Senate passed legislation addressing the immediate New Hampshire retiree health care shortfall, as well as even greater shortfalls expected in the future.

“The Senate worked to make sure that New Hampshire’s retirees, who rely on the state for their medical insurance, continue to receive benefits by providing a long-term sustainable funding plan that will serve this population beyond the current budget,” said Senator Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith). “The legislation which passed the Senate today will ensure that there are no gaps in retiree healthcare benefits, despite a funding shortfall expected in FY-17 which would have increased significantly in the next budget. This legislation provides tools for the Department of Administrative Services to ensure the stability and longevity of the retiree health care system in the State.”

“I am thankful for the support of my Senate colleagues for making this a priority and passing this legislation today,” said Forrester.

“Most importantly, we included a waiver program in this legislation that I advocated for, so that our longest serving state employees who are now living on tight, fixed incomes would be protected from any potential future cost increases that could be particularly burdensome for many,” said Senator Jerry Little (R-Weare).

“I am pleased with the hard work of the Senate Finance committee who found a solution and put in place the necessary resources to allow the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services to manage future shortfalls in New Hampshire’s retiree health care system so retirees continue to receive these important benefits,” added Little.

“I fully support the waiver provision in this bill which serves to protect our most vulnerable retirees including former teachers, police officers and individuals who spent their careers serving the state,” said Senator Kevin Avar (R-Nashua). “For many with fixed incomes, any increase in costs for health care would significantly affect their budget and this measure gives them the opportunity to be exempted from any changes in costs for these benefits.”

“I urge the governor to support and sign this legislation into law so that we don’t put New Hampshire retirees in jeopardy,” added Senator Jeanie Forrester.

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