

## Legislative Update

### Week Ending 2/7/14

Feb 7 marks day 19 of the 40 day legislative session. The pace is on track for a mid-March conclusion.

The following bills saw action this week

### Budget

**HB 743-** the amended FY 14 budget was sent to the full Senate by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday (5 Feb). The amended budget will pass the Senate on Friday, 7 Feb. There are minor changes – so the House will vote next week to accept, or go to conference. We expect the amended budget to be complete before Feb 14.

**HB 15** – FY 15 budget – the House subcommittees have met. We may see the big budget on the House floor no later than Feb 18. Clayton State has \$2.9 million in bonds to equip the new science building. The bond package has received support thus far. You may read the tracking sheet (it's only 94 pages) at [http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/Documents/2015\\_FiscalYear/FY\\_2015\\_Tracking\\_Govs\\_Rec.pdf](http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/Documents/2015_FiscalYear/FY_2015_Tracking_Govs_Rec.pdf).

### Retirement

**HB 516** – will allow ORP members with 5 years of service to have a one time opportunity to transfer to TRS.

This legislation will:

- Allow current members of the ORP to have a one--time opportunity to opt--in to the TRS
- If a member chooses to switch plans, he/she would solely assume the burden of cost
- ORP members would have six--months to make this decision
- Key provision is that by choosing to switch into the TRS, they cannot create any unfunded liability to the TRS
- Also, future ORP members could opt out by their sixth year of service with the USG
- To opt--in, the ORP member will have to pay the value of the projected future benefits for their lifetime (according to TRS testimony in 2011)

The process will require the member to pay the full cost of joining TRS. Such cost will be calculated to hold the TRS fund harmless. The House Retirement Committee recommended the bill "Do Pass" on 5 Feb. The Rules Committee must decide when to allow the bill to the House floor for a vote.

### Public Private Partnership (P3) bill

**HB 788** – will allow private partners to operate student housing, relieving the USG of debt obligations for those structures. The House Ways and Means Committee recommended the legislation “Do Pass” on 6 Feb. The bill is now in the Rules Committee to schedule for a floor vote.

### **Guns**

**HB 875** – has been introduced as an alternative to SB 101 and HB 512. Language to permit Campus Carry proposes a reduction of penalties to a fine less than \$100.00 for carrying weapons on campus by licensed individuals. The House Public Safety Committee held two multi-hour hearings on the legislation this week, and forwarded the legislation to the House.

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20132014/138458.pdf>