

KEA President's Points

March 29, 2018



The Kentucky Education Association is the preeminent voice for quality public education.

We unite, organize and empower members to advocate for themselves and to ensure a quality public education for every Kentucky student.

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Dear Members,



ACT NOW! Call 800-372-7181

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE; THE HOUSE IS ALREADY VOTING.

CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS, ESPECIALLY YOUR SENATORS, WHO WILL BE VOTING ON THIS BILL LATER TODAY, AND TELL THEM TO VOTE NO ON SB151 AS AMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE!

About an hour ago, the House State and Local Government Committee passed a committee substitute to SB151 which contains many of the harmful provisions of SB1. The committee substitute is already on the House floor for a vote. If the House passes the committee substitute, the bill will go to the Senate as soon as possible, probably later today. If the Senate approves the House version as amended (and they certainly will), the pension benefits of TRS participants will forever be changed, and not for the better.

The committee substitute has not been publicly posted on the LRC website. Until a couple hours ago, only the small group of legislators working on the bill had seen it. The committee meeting was closed, and none of the stakeholders were given a copy of the bill or were allowed to testify, although it was televised on KET. The legislators testifying before House State and Local Government in favor of the committee sub were John "Bam" Carney - an active educator - and Jonathan Shell.

All the House Democrats on the committee objected to the process and voted "no" on the bill in committee. This version has not had an actuarial analysis done, does not have a fiscal impact statement and does not have a fiscal note, all of which are normally required for a spending bill of this magnitude. The Senate is holding hostage SB66, which

will give relief to state and local governments about to be hit hard by artificially inflated CERS pension contributions for current employees. The party line is, "no TRS structural changes, no local pension relief."

According to testimony (none of the stakeholders have seen the bill), the committee substitute does all the following:

- Caps sick leave for retirement calculation - this will affect current and new employees
- Moves new teachers to a hybrid cash balance plan
- Eliminates the inviolable contract protections for new educators
- Includes a 2% pension contribution from the local school districts for new hires

This kind of back room dealing is shameful. Pitting local government interests against the interests of current and future educators is cowardly. Bam Carney claimed that he was speaking for stakeholders because he's a current educator. Representative Miller claims that the changes made to this bill show that your concerns were taken into account. Both statements are completely disingenuous, and their motives - to satisfy the Governor - are the only thing transparent about this process.

Let them know we see what they are doing. Call your Senator at 800-372-7181.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Winkler
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