

## SENATE RETIREMENT COMMITTEE APPROVES GSRA-ADVOCATED BILL

The Senate Retirement Committee, Led by Chair Randy Robertson, took up SB 343 again, this time for the purpose of voting on it. SB 343 authorizes COLAs, when approved by the ERS Board, to be paid to retirees of GSEPS, LRS and JRS plans. It also provides for other administrative actions. SB 343 is authored by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler and sponsored by Sen. Nan Orrock among others of both parties. It is a truly bi-partisan effort and is supported by ERS.

Providing equity to GSEPS members has been a long time goal of GSRA, and we are delighted that SB 343 has such great support. Here is a link to the video of the committee meeting:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8821987/video/670349865>.

Sen. Hufstetler begins his remarks at 6:55. In response to questions, mainly from Sen. Larry Walker, ERS Executive Director Jim Potvin clarifies the basics of GSEPS at 11:16. Sen Orrock testifies in favor at 13:57. SB 343 passed unanimously without further discussion. At 22:47, Sen. Robertson sums up his and the committee's support for state employees.

GSRA thanks the sponsors of SB 343 and the members of the Senate Retirement Committee for their support of ERS retirees.

Sponsors of SB 343 are

1. Hufstetler, Chuck  
52nd
2. Tillery, Blake  
19th
3. Orrock, Nan  
36th
4. Miller, Butch  
49th
5. Parent, Elena  
42nd
6. Hickman, Billy  
4th

Members of the Senate Retirement Committee are

Randy Robertson  
29th Chairman  
Chuck Hufstetler  
52nd Vice Chairman  
Carden Summers  
13th Secretary  
Michelle Au  
48th Member  
Gail Davenport  
44th Member  
Sally Harrell  
40th Member  
Billy Hickman  
4th Member  
Larry Walker, III  
20th Ex-Officio

Contacting these senators to thank them for their support is certainly in order, especially if you are a constituent. You can obtain the bill sponsors' addresses at <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/61176>. You can obtain the Retirement Committee members' addresses at

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/committees/senate/82>.

In a very important related matter, GSRA will be discussing methods for ERS to grant meaningful COLAs with Jim Potvin and staff next week.