



STATE EMPLOYEES' INSURANCE BOARD

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Legislative Update

By: Sally Corley

Last week was a busy week at the Alabama Statehouse. The House of Representatives worked through all of the bills on the regular order calendar, and the Senate methodically worked through their special order calendars. Later this week we will start seeing special order calendars in the House as well. The General Fund Budget Reserve Act is now in position to be voted on by the full Senate. A public hearing for the Open Records Act is scheduled for early tomorrow afternoon. Hopefully, we will see the budgets start moving through the process soon.

Below is a brief description of some of the bills we are tracking this session. These weekly legislative updates are meant to keep you informed of legislation that may affect you. The SEIB is always working towards our goal of providing the best health care coverage available at an affordable rate for our members.

BUDGET:

HB152 Clouse/SB157 Albritton – FY20 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

The biggest item on our legislative agenda each year is the General Fund Budget. The General Fund Budget funds the SEIB at the rate of \$930 for each full-time employee per month. The budget also states that it is the intent of the Legislature not to raise “out of pocket costs” for members. Funding in the budget for health insurance provides a benefit that helps all employees equally and provides a benefit for retirees.

Do not forget that if you qualify for “other employer health insurance coverage” through a spouse or another job, please contact your [SEIB Advisor](#) today to find out about savings opportunities that are immediately available to you.

STATUS: Both introduced.

OTHER LEGISLATION:

HB229 Lawrence/SB159 Albritton – 2% State Employee Pay Raise

A 2% pay raise for all state employees to be effective on Oct. 1, 2020.

Status: Both introduced.

SB129 Chambliss – General Fund Budget Reserve Act

Creates the General Fund Budget Reserve Fund. Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, twenty percent of unanticipated and unappropriated general fund monies will be transferred into the new general fund budget reserve fund to help insulate against proration.

Status: Pending third reading in the Senate.

SB157 Ward – Open Records Act

Mandates comprehensive change to how state agencies respond to open records requests. Agencies that have open records requests should review this bill.

Status: Introduced. Public hearing scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.