



# STATE EMPLOYEES' INSURANCE BOARD

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## Legislative Wrap Up

By: Sally Corley

Yesterday the Legislature adjourned sine die, which means without a date to return. In other words, the 2020 Regular Session is officially complete. The pandemic caused a major disruption to the session, and because of that we will have at least one special session (likely more) before the end of the year. No official word yet on when that may occur, but speculators predict late July. There are several issues lingering that need to be addressed - prisons are at the top of the list. There are also some agency bills that need to be addressed. Stay tuned for more on when a special session will occur and what will be considered.

Below is a brief description of some of the bills we tracked this session. These weekly legislative updates were 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.

In a unique twist, this year’s budget also gives the Governor complete control over \$1.8 billion of federal stimulus funds. This will allow for a much faster process of reimbursement of pandemic related expenses.

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 available to you.

**Status: Enacted 2020-168**

#### **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: Enacted 2020-115**

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## **Did Not Pass:**

### **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:** Indefinitely postponed.

### **SB57 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:** Indefinitely postponed.

### **SB176 Shelnett/HB386 Rich – Group Insurance Products**

Allows the CEO of the SEIB and Local Government Health Insurance Board to approve the offering of group insurance benefits that have been approved by the Commissioner of Insurance.

**Status:** Indefinitely Postponed.

### **SB236 Butler/HB345 Johnson – PBM Bill**

Expands the Department of Insurance's authority over Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBMs). Does not allow for PBMs to have exclusive arrangements with a specialty pharmacy, and it sets strict parameters on mail order benefits. Ultimately, this bill will greatly impede the SEIB's ability to continue to have significant savings through the use of a PBM. If this bill passes, it will result in significant cost to the State Employees' Health Insurance Plan and the General Fund Budget.

**Status:** Indefinitely Postponed.