



STATE EMPLOYEES' INSURANCE BOARD

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Legislative Update

By: Sally Corley

Yesterday, the First Special Session of 2022 adjourned sine die, or without a date to return. Having a Special Session within a Regular Legislative Session allowed the Legislature to focus on the single issue of appropriating the first round of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

In this first round of ARPA appropriations, the SEIB was not reimbursed for the almost \$18 million in COVID claims that were paid from March through December of 2021. However, we are hopeful that we will be reimbursed for these as well as subsequent COVID claims that will be paid by the time the second round of ARPA funds are appropriated. Unfortunately, as COVID continues to spread, the cost of our COVID claims will continue to grow.

In other news, there is talk of another Special Session soon to address redistricting. Earlier this week, a three-judge federal district court panel ordered the Legislature to redraw Congressional Districts by February 11th or the court will redraw the districts. For now, it appears that the Regular Session will begin again on Tuesday of next week, but this could change quickly depending on the outcome of appeals to this decision. There is never a dull moment in Alabama politics.

Below is a brief description of some of the bills we are tracking during this Regular Legislative Session. Please know these weekly legislative updates are meant to keep you informed of legislation that may impact 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:

HB113 Clouse – FY23 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.

STATUS: Introduced.