



Special Budget Report #2 - Conference Committee
Exclusive to RSEA Members
As of April 21, 2025 (Texas Battle of San Jacinto 1836)

Dear RSEA Members,

With the passage of the House version of the general appropriations bill (SB 1) for the upcoming 2026-27 biennium in the early morning hours of Friday, April 11, the next step in the budget process has commenced - the joint House-Senate conference committee on appropriations. Comprised of 10 members, five from each house, the primary job of the conference committee is to reconcile the differences between the two versions of the bill. And, subject to final approval from each house, the committee may also propose new budget items it deems a priority, subject to available funds. **RSEA is advocating a 13th check or one-time annuity enhancement for all ERS retirees as one of those budget items.**

RSEA's attention will now focus on the conference committee, especially since the House version of the bill (SB 1) includes only a "wish list" item, i.e., it's not funded, in its Article 11 for a one-time enhancement of retirement annuities or 13th check; and the Senate-passed version of SB 1 is silent on the subject.

We are also focusing on House Bill 500, the supplemental appropriations bill for the remainder of the 2025 fiscal year (ending August 31, 2025). The House-passed version of HB 500 (also passed on April 11, and now in the Senate Finance Committee) also contains no direct appropriation for a 13th check or one-time annuity enhancement for retirees.

Regarding HB 500, you may view my testimony before the House Appropriations Committee on March 31st to see our basic message at this point. You can view

this testimony on the RSEA website homepage at www.rseaoftx.com for a "live" viewing link.

The 10 members of the appropriations conference committee are:

State Senators - Joan Huffman, Co-Chair

Brandon Creighton, Lois Kolkhorst, Robert Nichols, Charles Schwertner

State Representatives - Greg Bonnen, Co-Chair

Mary Gonzalez, Stan Kitzman, Angelia Orr, Armando Walle

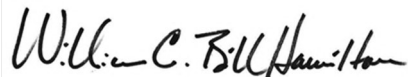
Can you help? The answer is most certainly, "Yes," and here's how.

The best opportunity is if you are a constituent living in the district of any of these 10 legislators. If so, I encourage you to communicate directly with your Senator/State Representative either by email or phone call to either their Capitol or district office. A simple message of: (a) how long you've been retired, (b) that you are an RSEA member, and (c) urging their support of a one-time enhancement to retirees annuities or 13th check to be included either in SB 1 or HB 500. In any event, optimum timing for any message along these lines **begins now**, during the next week-to-10 days, **as the conference committee is in the early stages of its work.**

Thanks as always for your membership in RSEA and for your support of our legislative efforts, especially at this critical stage during the legislative session.

As always, if you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely and with appreciation,



William C. (Bill) Hamilton

President

Retired State Employees Association