PTAA Members: Protect your Longevity Benefit

The State budget was passed by the House Finance Committee Friday night, June 17, 2011. New attacks are being leveled at the non-classified Unions’ longevity benefits. The State is seeking to freeze current longevity levels and prohibit future increases when Union contracts expire.

In contrast to classified Unions which may have contractually negotiated longevity increases, PTAA like all non-classified Unions under the Board of Governors for Higher Education depend on an existing law to receive a 5% longevity increase after 10 years and another 5% for a total of 10% after 20 years of employment.

SECTION 2. Section 16-59-7.2 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-59 entitled "Board of 23 Governors for Higher Education" is hereby amended to read as follows:

16-59-7.2. Longevity payments -- Nonclassified employees. -- (a) The non-classified 25 employees of the board of governors for higher education, except for faculty employees and 26 except for non-classified employees already receiving longevity increases, shall be entitled to a 27 longevity payment in the amount of five percent (5%) of base salary after ten (10) years of 28 service and increasing to a total of ten percent (10%) of base salary after twenty (20) years of 29 service. The provisions of this section will apply only to employees under the grade of nineteen 30 (19). The longevity payments shall not be included in base salary.

(b) The board of governors is authorized to promulgate regulations implementing the 2 provisions of this section.

The new Budget amendment is aimed at killing your longevity benefit. The pending 2011 Budget Article 8, section 2 reads:

(c) Beginning on July 1, 2011, notwithstanding any rule, regulation, or provision of the 4 public laws or general laws to the contrary, there shall be no further longevity increases for 5 employees of the board of governors; provided, however, for employees with longevity 6 provisions pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement in effect on June 1, 2011, longevity 7 increases shall cease beginning on July 1, 2011 or beginning upon the expiration of the applicable 8 collective bargaining agreement, whichever occurs later. To the extent an employee has 9 previously accrued longevity payments, the amount of the longevity payment earned by the 10 employee for the last pay period in June, 2011 shall be added to the employee’s base salary as of 11 June 30, 2011, or in the case of an employee with longevity provisions pursuant to a collective 12 bargaining agreement in effect on June 1, 2011, the amount of the longevity payment earned by 13 the employee for the latter of the last pay period in June or the last pay period prior to the 14 expiration of the applicable collective bargaining agreement shall be added to the employee’s 15 base salary as of June 30, 2011 or upon the expiration of the applicable collective bargaining 16 agreement, whichever occurs later.

Four Steps to fight back

1. Find your legislators contact information using the Secretary of State’s web site at https://sos.ri.gov/vic/
2. Call your legislators TODAY.
3. Ask them to either
   a. Vote NO to Budget Article 8, or
   b. Support a budget amendment to keep longevity in the scope of collective bargaining.
4. Come to the state House and watch the House budget debate on Friday, June 24th, starting @ 1:00 pm and ending at ??

Executive Board
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