

RISE Delaware Legislative Update **By Sen. Karen Peterson (ret.), Legislative Liaison**

As I reported on December 27th, 2023 Rep. Paul Baumbach has introduced two bills (HB 281 and HB 282) to address Medicare-eligible retiree healthcare. He has since proposed amendments to both bills and is introducing a third bill to address the long-term funding issues (the bill does not yet have a number).

HB 281 would have repealed the option of providing healthcare insurance to state pensioners under Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage Plan). Amendment No. 1 to HB 281 would allow a plan under Medicare Part C, a Medicare Advantage Plan, as an option for eligible pensioners who are first hired on or after January 1, 2025, if the plan is selected and adopted by the State Employee Benefits Committee (SEBC) as a regulation under the Administrative Procedures Act.

HB 282 adds procedural requirements to meetings of the State Employee Benefits Committee (SEBC), revises the membership of the SEBC, and requires that the Secretary of Human Resources inform State employees and retired State employees (eligible pensioners) about changes in benefits coverage affecting eligible pensioners, including proposed changes. Amendment No. 1 to HB 282 slightly revises the proposed membership of the SEBC.

HB ____ (not yet numbered) increases the amount of the annual appropriation to prefund future State employee retiree health insurance as recommended by the Retiree Healthcare Benefits Advisory Subcommittee (RHBAS). This amount is in addition to the 1% budget carve-out required by SB 175 already passed by the General Assembly.

*Please note that we are monitoring when these bills will be heard in committee. So far, no committee hearings have been scheduled for the bills.

Lisa Diller
President, RISE Delaware

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RISE Delaware: Retirees Investing in Social Equity Delaware

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