Legislative Update – November 18, 2025

On November 18, 2025, the Select Committee on Pension Policy concluded its study of two bills affecting the overfunded LEOFF 1 pension plan. The first bill, SB 5085, which WSSRA strongly supports, would use the LEOFF 1 surplus to provide an ongoing COLA to TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees. The second bill, HB 2034, would transfer the LEOFF 1 surplus into the state's general fund, allowing lawmakers to spend it.

While the committee was not required to recommend a course of action to the legislature, WSSRA was vocal in urging it to endorse SB 5085. There was hope that the committee would listen after it received legal guidance that identified SB 5085 as the option that presented less risk. However, after a debate, the committee decided to make no recommendation to the legislature regarding the two bills.

Ultimately, the committee did recommend a separate piece of legislation to provide a one-time COLA to TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees in 2026. However, with the legislature preparing to address another budget deficit in 2026, this bill will likely face a difficult path forward. WSSRA will advocate for TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees to receive a COLA in 2026, either through SB 5085 or the one-time COLA bill.

As the 2026 legislative session draws near, the WSSRA Legislative Committee is preparing to go to work on your behalf. Due to the state budget deficit, we will also advocate to protect the subsidy that the state provides to all Medicare-eligible retirees who purchase insurance through the Public Employees Benefits Board.