

Legislative Update – February 12, 2026

We are halfway through a difficult legislative session. Lawmakers are trying to close another multi-billion dollar budget deficit. Despite the lack of available funds, Senate Bill 5862, which would provide a one-time 3% COLA to TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees, looks like it is on track to pass the Senate. The bill is sponsored by State Senator Perry Dozier, a Republican from Waitsburg. He introduced it after attending a meeting of the Walla Walla-Columbia School Retirees' Association (WSSRA Unit 31) last year. The bill appears to be an important priority for the Senate Democratic caucus, who fought unsuccessfully to restore an ongoing COLA for TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees last year.

While we are hopeful that our bill will clear the Senate, it faces a difficult journey in the House. If you are reading this before March 10, please help us by calling the legislative hotline at (800) 562-6000. An operator will ask you for your name and address and then transcribe your message, which will be passed along to your legislators. Please tell your legislators to pass Senate Bill 5862 to provide a COLA for TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees.

Thank you for your support!