

Legislative Milestones Achieved through TPEA Proposals and Advocacy

1975

Legislative creation of a uniform, statewide insurance program under ERS for active and retired state employees.

1980's

Regular pay raises, increased insurance contributions and pension funding sufficient to allow recurring annuity enhancements for retirees. Passage of a TPEA-promoted bill clarifying and authorizing state employee participation in political campaigns, albeit on their own time.

1990's

ERS insurance program expanded to include higher education employees and to incorporate current Point of Service health plan. Current state contribution policy (100 percent of the employee/retiree-only premium and 50 percent of the dependent premium) phased in. Regular raises for retirees and employees and improved pension formulas.

2000's

In the face of severe economic and stock market downturns (2001–2003 and 2008–2009), TPEA proposals helped the Legislature find the necessary monies to preserve the pension fund and its basic benefits while also allocating hundreds of millions in additional funding to offset insurance cost increases. Modest pay raises for active employees.

2013 & 2015

TPEA helped preserve the pension in its defined benefit model through significant, TPEA-proposed increases in state, employee, and agency contributions to the ERS pension fund. These increases mitigated a growing move to either eliminate the existing guaranteed pension model or at least make significant cuts in the retirement benefits earned by employees. TPEA

also offered suggestions and support to ERS in developing cost-containment strategies for insurance. Active employees received modest pay raises from the Legislature in deference to TPEA's insistence on at least some cost-of-living increase while employees increased their portion of the pension funding.

2021

For years, the Senate would not provide the funding necessary to pay off the ERS pension funds' debt without pension reform. TPEA worked closely with legislators to draft and pass Senate Bill 321, which ensures that ERS receives \$510 million additional funds each year to address the pension debt and also institutes a new plan that would help achieve solvency.

2023

TPEA testified at over 55 budget hearings to help secure two across-the-board pay raises, both for 5%, with a minimum of \$250 a month or \$3000 a year for all classified non-higher education state employees. House Bill 1, the state budget, provides \$1.8 billion for these raises, the most significant investment in state employee pay raises in decades.

TPEA also actively supported, and the Legislature approved, targeted pay raises requested by individual agencies or for specific job classifications.

TPEA also worked with ERS and the Legislature to invest a billion dollars to stabilize the ERS Trust Fund.