



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A win for Indiana's public retirees

Retired Indiana Public Employees Association (RIPEA) celebrates passage of 13th check for 2025

Indianapolis, Indiana (April 24, 2025) – The Retired Indiana Public Employees Association (RIPEA) is pleased to announce today's passage of House Bill 1221 in the Senate, after yesterday's approval in the House. HB 1221 will provide Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF) and Excise Gaming & Conservation (EG&C) officer retirees with a one-time 13th check in 2025.

The check will provide vital financial support to retirees, many of whom live on fixed incomes. The retiree bonus checks will range from \$143 to \$428, based on years of service. This legislative win is the culmination of RIPEA's extensive lobbying throughout this year's legislative session, where the organization worked diligently to secure additional benefits for its members.

"The passage of HB 1221 – after all the twists and turns the bill took this year – feels like a big win in this economy," said RIPEA Executive Director Jessica Love. "Our legislative champions had to push back hard against the shroud of the dismal budget forecast to get a 1-year check approved at a slightly lower level than we've secured in the past. The one-year approval means we'll have to come back next year to get more approved in 2026. But for now, we're thrilled to see this pension enhancement approved for our retired members."

Representative Mike Karickhoff, author of House Bill 1221, is one of the bill champions responsible for its passage. Karickhoff expressed his commitment to retirees and the need for post-retirement pension enhancements, saying, "These Hoosiers spent their career supporting Indiana, and many continue to feel the squeeze from high inflation. For decades, our retired public employees have counted on a supplemental payment like a 13th check or cost-of-living adjustment, and I look forward to continuing to work on this next year."

RIPEA advocates on behalf of more than 100,000 retired public employees in Indiana. Of this population, 72% of Indiana's retired public employees have a monthly pension benefit of \$1,000 or less; and 40% receive a benefit of \$500 or less. For the majority of retirees with an annual pension of less than \$12,000, and especially those with an annual pension of less than \$6,000, receiving a 13th check makes a huge difference in their financial stability and ability to cover basic needs.

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About Retired Indiana Public Employees Association (RIPEA)

Since 1972, RIPEA has worked to improve the quality of life of active and retired Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF) members. RIPEA provides the relationships, insurance benefits, policy-advocacy and education needed to retire well from public employment in the Hoosier state.

Approximately 40,000 PERF participants are RIPEA members. Visit www.RIPEA.org to learn more.