

Legislative Update

For the Week of: March 2 - 6, 2015
Legislative Days: 24 - 27

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Legislative Log

Monday, March 2, 2015

HB 508 – Appellate court judges; age of eligibility for certain benefits; decrease

This bill allows Appellate Court Judges to be eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 60. Currently such members are not eligible for normal retirement benefits until age 65.

HB 508 was assigned to the House Retirement Committee.

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

No retirement bills were considered.

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

HB 250 – Retirement and pensions; assignment of payments to a beneficiary to a self-settled, supplemental needs trust; provide

This bill relates to the payment of benefits to members or beneficiaries of all retirement systems administered by the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia (ERSGA) who have physical, psychiatric, or intellectual disabilities.

All benefits payable to a beneficiary with such disabilities may be assigned to a self-settled supplemental needs trust for that beneficiary. This trust will protect the assets of the beneficiary and still allow the individual to maintain eligibility for government benefits such as Medicaid and Social Security Income.

Benefits payable to members of all retirement systems administered by ERSGA may be assigned by court order to the member's spouse if the member is Medicaid eligible, is institutionalized in a facility licensed for medical care, or is receiving home or community based care.

HB 250 received NO ACTION from the House Retirement Committee.

Legislative Log (continued)

HB 344 – Retirement and pensions; create Georgia Public Retirement System Trustee Training Council; provisions

This bill creates a Public Retirement System Training Council to develop a training course for trustees.

HB 344 received NO ACTION from the House Retirement Committee.

HB 383 – Retirement systems; alternative investments; modify provisions

This bill removes safeguards previously put in place for conservatively investing in alternative investments.

HB 383 was removed from the agenda by the Chair of the House Retirement Committee.

Thursday, March 5, 2015

HB 421 – Retirement and pensions; officers employed by Department of Community Supervision shall be entitled to certain disability benefits; provide

This bill is a companion bill to HB 310, which creates the Department of Community Supervision. Under current law ERS members responsible for supervision of probationers or parolees under the Department of Corrections or the State Board of Pardons and Paroles are eligible for enhanced disability benefits if they become permanently disabled due to an act of external violence or injury incurred in the line of law enforcement duty.

Under this bill, Community Supervision Officer is a new job title created in the Department of Community Supervision. Employees responsible for supervision of probationers or parolees with the Department of Corrections or the State Board of Pardons and Paroles would assume the title of Community Supervision Officer with the Department of Community Supervision and maintain enhanced disability benefits.

If this legislation is enacted, along with HB 310, certain current employees of the Department of Juvenile Justice would become eligible for this enhanced disability benefit once they are transferred to the Department of Community Supervision and assume the new job title.

HB 421 was assigned to the House Retirement Committee.

Friday, March 6, 2015

No retirement bills were considered today due to the General Assembly being in recess.
