



## Employees' Retirement System of Georgia

# 2026 Enacted Legislation

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## Overview

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## Summary

**The following bills were passed by the Georgia General Assembly during the 2026 Legislative Session. These bills were enacted by the Governor, with the exception of SB 23, which was vetoed by Governor Kemp.**

### Contact Us

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## Policy List Groups

This is the list of policy items that you have added to your Projects.

### Legislation

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Legislation •  United States • Georgia • Bill

#### [GA SB 143](#)

Georgia Firefighter's Pension Fund; certain members to retire at age 50; provide

#### **Last Action: July 01, 2026 - Effective Date**

Enacted • 2025-2026 Regular Session • Introduced: February 11, 2025

Sponsors: **John Albers (R)**, **Chuck Payne (R-GA)**, **Kay Kirkpatrick (R-GA)**, **Shawn Still (R-GA)**, **Randy Robertson (R-GA)**, **Rick Williams (R-GA)**, **Lauren W. McDonald (R-GA)**

#### **Committee Assignments:**

Senate Committee on Retirement • House Committee on Retirement

### Summary

#### Your Summary

This bill extends Judicial Retirement System (JRS) membership eligibility to include persons employed full-time as a judge in the Georgia Tax Court on or after July 1, 2026.

Each such member's earnable monthly compensation shall be the full rate of the regular monthly compensation paid from state funds for his or her working full time.

Each individual who becomes a member of JRS under this bill would be eligible to transfer his or her creditable service from the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) upon notification to the board within one year of becoming a JRS member and the payment of the full actuarial cost of the transfer of service.

Persons employed in this role as of June 30, 2026, who are members of ERS, will remain an ERS member unless they elect to become a JRS member on or before June 30, 2027. Such person must notify the board and pay full actuarial cost to the retirement system associated with their transfer of service.

This Act would become effective July 1, 2026.

First year cost: \$0; UAAL increase: \$498,000.

Bill was combined with HB 818.

**Bill assigned to Senate Retirement Committee on 2/12/26. Bill passed Senate Retirement Committee by Substitute on 2/5/26. Bill passed Senate by a vote of 47 to 3 on 2/17/26. Bill assigned to House Retirement Committee on 2/18/26. Bill passed House Retirement Committee by Substitute on 3/31/26. Bill passed House Rules Committee on 3/31/26. Bill passed House by a vote of 168 to 0 on 3/31/26. Senate agreed to House Substitute by a vote of 52 to 1 on 4/2/26. Bill sent to Governor on 4/10/26. Signed by Governor on 5/12/26 as Act 630.**

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Legislation •  United States • Georgia • Bill

## [GA SB 452](#)

Retirement and Pension; maximum employer contribution to a 401(k) for certain state law enforcement officers; increase

### **Last Action: July 01, 2026 - Effective Date**

Enacted • 2025-2026 Regular Session • Introduced: February 02, 2026

Sponsors: **Bo Hatchett (R-GA), Randy Robertson (R-GA), Brian Strickland (R-GA), Blake Tillery (R-GA), John Albers (R), Steve Gooch (R-GA), Jason R. Anavitarte (R), Matt F. Brass (R-GA), Timothy Bearden (R), Russ Goodman (R-GA), Benjamin L. Watson (R), William R. Hickman (R-GA), Mike Hodges (R-GA), Jason T. Dickerson (R-GA), Max Burns (R-GA), Chuck Payne (R-GA), Drew Echols (R-GA), Chuck Hufstetler (R-GA), Gregory Dolezal (R-GA), Lee Anderson (R-GA), Kay Kirkpatrick (R-GA), Shawn Still (R-GA), Frank Ginn (R-GA), Clint Dixon (R-GA), Larry Walker (R-GA), Bill Cowser (R-GA), Ed Setzler (R-GA), Marty Harbin (R-GA), Sam Watson (R-GA), Rick Williams (R-GA), Carden Summers (R-GA), John Carson (R-GA)**

### **Committee Assignments:**

Senate Committee on Retirement • House Committee on Retirement

## **Summary**

### **Your Summary**

Under the provisions of this bill, state law enforcement officer is defined as: a peace officer, as such term is defined in Code Section 35-8-2, employed by the Department of Community Supervision, and a sworn law enforcement officer certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council who, by virtue of his or her office or public

employment giving rise to his or her membership under this article, is vested by law with the duties of a peace officer, as such term is defined in Code Section 16-1-3.

Beginning July 1, 2026, such eligible state law enforcement officers, who are members of the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) GSEPS Tier 3, would become eligible to receive an additional two percent employer contribution match in their 401(k) for each year of creditable service once such member surpasses five years of service, provided that the member is contributing five percent at the time the match is calculated. The additional employer contribution would be capped after 10 years of creditable service, thus allowing for a maximum employer contribution of 15 percent from that point forward, as long as the member is contributing five percent at the time the match is calculated.

**Bill was assigned to the Senate Retirement Committee on 2/3/2026. Bill passed the Senate Retirement Committee on 2/11/2026. Bill passed Senate Rules on 2/12/2026 and will be debated by the Senate on 2/17/2026. Bill passed the Senate by a vote of 49 to 0 on 2/17/2026. Bill assigned to the House Retirement Committee on 2/18/2026. Bill received do pass recommendation from House Retirement Committee on 3/18/26. Bill passed House Rules Committee on 3/19/26. Bill passed House with a vote of 163 to 0 on 3/19/26. Bill sent to Governor on 4/10/26. Bill signed by Governor on 5/6/26 as Act 414.**

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Legislation •  United States • Georgia • Bill

## [GA SB 216](#)

Georgia Judicial Retirement System; membership in the system for individuals employed as the director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission; provide

### **Last Action: July 01, 2026 - Effective Date**

Enacted • 2025-2026 Regular Session • Introduced: February 19, 2025

Sponsors: **Randy Robertson (R-GA), Blake Tillery (R-GA), Brian Strickland (R-GA), Max Burns (R-GA), Ed Setzler (R-GA), William R. Hickman (R-GA), Kay Kirkpatrick (R-GA), Chuck Payne (R-GA), Marty Harbin (R-GA), Russ Goodman (R-GA), Shawn Still (R-GA), Joseph Gullett (R-GA)**

### **Committee Assignments:**

Senate Committee on Retirement • House Committee on Retirement

## Summary

### Your Summary

This bill extends Judicial Retirement System (JRS) membership to include persons employed as the director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission on or after July 1, 2026.

Persons employed in this role as of June 30, 2026, who are members of Employees' Retirement System (ERS), will remain an ERS member unless they elect to become a JRS member on or before June 30, 2027. Such person must notify the board and pay full actuarial cost to the retirement system associated with their transfer of service.

Upon this election, the individual will become a JRS member, and ERSGA shall transfer all employer and employee contributions paid by or on behalf of the individual together with regular interest, and the individual will receive service in JRS towards vesting in the full amount of service accrued during their time as an ERS member.

Each such member's earnable monthly compensation shall be the full rate of the regular monthly compensation paid from state funds for his or her working full time.

This Act would become effective July 1, 2026.

First year cost: \$0; UAAL increase: \$86,000.

**Bill assigned to the Senate Retirement Committee on 2/20/2025. Bill was forwarded for actuarial study on 3/25/2025. Bill passed out of Senate Retirement Committee 2/25/26. Bill passed Senate Rules Committee 3/3/26. Bill passed Senate on 3/4/26. Bill was assigned to the House Retirement Committee on 3/6/26. Bill received do pass recommendation from House Retirement Committee on 3/18/26. Bill passed House Rules Committee on 3/19/26. Bill passed House with a vote of 165 to 0 on 3/19/26. Bill Sent to Governor on 4/10/26. Signed by Governor on 5/11/26 as Act 488.**

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Legislation •  United States • Georgia • Bill

### [GA SB 556](#)

HOPE Scholarship; the inclusion of advanced placement and international baccalaureate fine arts courses in the calculation of grade point averages; provide

### Last Action: July 01, 2026 - Effective Date

Enacted • 2025-2026 Regular Session • Introduced: February 24, 2026

Sponsors: **Chuck Payne (R-GA), Shawn Still (R-GA), Rick Williams (R-GA), Freddie Powell Sims (D-GA), William R. Hickman (R-GA), Scott Hilton (R-GA)**

**Committee Assignments:**

House Committee on Higher Education • Senate Committee on Higher Education

**Summary**

**Your Summary**

This bill would exclude part-time students from membership in the Georgia Defined Contribution Plan (GDGP) beginning on July 1, 2026.

**Bill assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee on 2/25/26. Bill passed Senate Higher Education Committee by Substitute on 3/3/26. Bill passed Senate Rules Committee on 3/4/26. Bill takes in Senate 3/6/26. Bill taken off the table in Senate 3/6/26. Bill passed Senate by Substitute on 3/6/26. Bill assigned to House Higher Education Committee on 3/9/26. Bill passed House Higher Education Committee by Substitute on 3/27/26. Bill passed House Rules Committee by Rules Committee Substitute on 4/2/26. Bill passed House by Rules Committee Substitute by a vote of 167 to 2 on 4/2/26. Senate agreed to House Rules Committee Substitute by a vote of 36 to 17 on 4/2/26. Bill sent to Governor on 4/10/26. Signed by Governor on 5/11/26 as Act 468.**

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Legislation •  United States • Georgia • Bill

 **[GA HB 1234](#)**

State Employees' Assurance Department; assignment of certain group term life insurance benefits to pay for funeral services of a deceased individual who was a member of certain retirement systems; provisions

**Last Action: May 12, 2026 - Act 631**

Enacted • 2025-2026 Regular Session • Introduced: February 06, 2026

Sponsors: **Darlene K. Taylor (R-GA), Lauren W. McDonald (R-GA), Danny Mathis (R-GA), Mary Ann Santos (D), Patty Marie Stinson (D-GA), Rick Williams (R-GA)**

**Committee Assignments:**

Senate Committee on Retirement • House Committee on Retirement

## Summary

### Your Summary

This bill allows persons who are the beneficiaries of Group Term Life Insurance (GTLI) for members of the Employees' Retirement System (ERS), the Judicial Retirement System (JRS), and the Legislative Retirement System (LRS) to assign GTLI benefits they are due to Funeral Homes or Embalmers to pay for the cost of the funeral beginning on July 1, 2026.

Beginning July 1, 2026, a beneficiary wishing to assign such GTLI benefits must provide the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia (ERSGA) with a notarized copy of the contract between the two parties, along with a copy of the death certificate. Upon receipt of such information, ERSGA would pay the amount due to the Funeral Home or Embalmer in accordance with the contract, but only to the extent that such amounts are owed to the beneficiary who completed the assignment.

**Bill was assigned the House Retirement Committee on 2/9/2026. Bill passed out of House Retirement Committee on 2/25/26. Bill passed out of House Rules Committee on 3/4/26. Bill passed House with a vote of 166 to 2 on 3/4/26. Bill assigned to the Senate Retirement Committee on 3/6/2026. Bill passed Senate Retirement Committee on 3/12/26. Bill passed Senate Rules Committee on 3/18/2026. Bill passed Senate with a vote of 46 to 0 on 3/19/26. Bill sent to Governor on 4/6/26. Signed by Governor on 5/12/26 as Act 631.**

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Legislation •  United States • Georgia • Bill

### [GA SB 23](#)

Retirement; total percentage of funds that the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia may invest in alternative investments; raise the limit

#### **Last Action: May 12, 2026 - Veto V8**

Vetoed • 2025-2026 Regular Session • Introduced: January 17, 2025

Sponsors: **John Albers (R)**, **Matt F. Brass (R-GA)**, **Randy Robertson (R-GA)**, **Bo Hatchett (R-GA)**, **Shawn Still (R-GA)**, **Mike Hodges (R-GA)**, **Gregory Dolezal (R-GA)**, **Sam Watson (R-GA)**, **Brian Strickland (R-GA)**, **Blake Tillery (R-GA)**, **Larry Walker (R-GA)**, **Brad Thomas (R-GA)**

#### **Committee Assignments:**

Senate Committee on Retirement • House Committee on Retirement

## Summary

### Your Summary

This bill would amend the current Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law. "Large retirement systems" (other than the ERSGA and TRSGA) would be authorized to invest up to 10% of assets in real estate investments. This bill would also authorize "large retirement systems" (other than the ERSGA and the TRSGA) to invest up to 15% of their assets in alternative investments. This bill clarifies that the ERSGA will continue to be allowed to invest up to 10% of their assets in alternative investments, which was previously set by statute. Such provisions would become effective July 1, 2026.

**Assigned to Senate Retirement Committee 2/3/25. Bill received a Do Pass recommendation from Senate Retirement Committee 2/5/2025. Bill received a Do Pass recommendation from the Senate Rules Committee on 2/6/2025 and will be debated by the full Senate on 2/10/2025. Bill passed the Senate on 2/10/2025 with a vote of 47 yeas and 8 nays. Assigned to House Retirement Committee 2/11/2025. Bill passed the House Retirement Committee by Substitute on 3/25/2025. Bill withdrawn and recommitted to House Retirement Committee on 4/4/26. Bill passed House Retirement Committee by Committee Substitute on 3/18/26. Bill passed House Rules Committee on 3/20/26. Bill was recommitted back to House Rules Committee on 3/20/26. Bill passed out of House Rules Committee on 3/23/26. Bill postponed to Legislative Day 37 on 3/23/26. Bill postponed to Legislative Day 38 on 3/25/26. Bill recommitted to House Rules Committee on 3/27/26. Bill passed House Rules Committee by Committee Substitute. Bill passed House by Rules Committee Substitute by a vote of 166 to 0 on 3/31/26. Senate agreed to House Rules Committee Substitute by a vote of 49 to 1 on 4/2/26. Bill sent to Governor on 4/10/26. Bill vetoed by Governor on 5/11/2026.**

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Legislation •  United States • Georgia • Bill

### [GA HB 1020](#)

Judicial Retirement System; payment of monthly retirement benefits for creditable service as a district attorney at the age of 65 years; provide

#### **Last Action: May 12, 2026 - Act 716**

Enacted • 2025-2026 Regular Session • Introduced: January 27, 2026

Sponsors: **Matt Reeves (R-GA), Chuck Efrstration (R-GA), Stan Gunter (R-GA), Trey Kelley (R-GA), Tyler Paul Smith (R-GA), Robert F. Leverett (R-GA), Bo Hatchett (R-GA)**

## Committee Assignments:

Senate Committee on Rules • House Committee on Retirement

## Summary

### Your Summary

This bill would increase the retirement age of District Attorneys from 60 to 65 for any District Attorney who becomes a Judicial Retirement System (JRS) member on or after July 1, 2026.

Any person who first becomes a member after July 1, 2026 may still retire at age 60; however, their retirement benefits will be reduced by any service time earned as a District Attorney. Once such person reaches age 65, their retirement benefit will be adjusted to account for all years of service. This bill would also increase the state base pensionable pay for District Attorneys on a date set by the General Assembly if appropriated for by the General Assembly. Companion bill to HB 1028. Similar legislation SB 606.

**Bill assigned to House Retirement Committee 1/28/26. Bill passed the House Retirement Committee by Committee Substitute on 2/12/2026. Bill passed House Rules on 2/19/2026 and will be debated by the House on 2/19/2026. Bill passed the House by a vote of 164 to 0 on 2/19/2026. Bill assigned to the Senate Retirement Committee on 2/20/2026. Bill passed out of the Senate Retirement Committee 3/3/26. Bill passed out of the Senate Rules Committee on 3/10/26. Bill recommitted to Senate Standing Rules Committee on 3/12/26. Bill passed Senate Standing Rules Committee to go to Senate Rules Committee by Rules Committee Substitute LC 56 0664S by a vote of 10 to 3 on 3/18/26. Bill passed Senate Rules Committee on 3/23/26. Bill passed Senate by Amended Substitute by a vote of 32 to 19 on 3/23/26. Senator Lucas served notice to reconsider Senate action on 3/23/26 for 3/25/26. Lucas declined to make motion to reconsider Senate action on 3/25/26. House agreed to Senate Amended Substitute on 3/25/26. Bill sent to Governor on 4/6/26. Signed by Governor on 5/12/26 as Act 716.**

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Legislation •  United States • Georgia • Bill

### [GA HB 974](#)

General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

**Last Action: May 12, 2026 - Act 655**

Enacted • 2025-2026 Regular Session • Introduced: January 15, 2026

Sponsors: **Jon G. Burns (R-GA), Jan Jones (R-GA), Chuck Efstrotation (R-GA), Matt Hatchett (R-GA), Blake Tillery (R-GA)**

**Committee Assignments:**

House Committee on Appropriations • Senate Committee on Appropriations

**Summary**

**Your Summary**

The Governor's Request includes: \$26.75 million to be paid in one-time payments to eligible ERS retirees in Fiscal Year 2027; \$5.2 million in funds for eligible GSEPS Law Enforcement Officer employees to support an enhanced 401(k) match, up to 15% of pay.

The House Request includes: \$26.75 million to be paid in one-time payments to eligible ERS retirees in Fiscal Year 2027; \$5.2 million in funds for eligible GSEPS Law Enforcement Officer employees to support an enhanced 401(k) match, up to 15% of pay.

The Senate Request includes: \$100 million base increase to increase funds to additionally fund Employees' Retirement System to trigger regular and annual cost-of-living adjustments; \$26.75 million to be paid in one-time payments to eligible ERS retirees in Fiscal Year 2027; \$5.2 million in funds for eligible GSEPS Law Enforcement Officer employees to support and enhance 401(k) match, up to 15% of pay.

The Conference Committee recommendation includes: \$100 million base increase to increase funds to additionally fund Employees' Retirement System to trigger regular and annual cost-of-living adjustments; \$26.75 million to be paid in one-time payments to eligible ERS retirees in Fiscal Year 2027; \$5.2 million in funds for eligible GSEPS Law Enforcement Officer employees to support and enhance 401(k) match, up to 15% of pay.

During signing of the bill, the Governor disregarded certain portions of the bill. The final Fiscal Year 2027 Budget includes \$26.75 million to be paid in one-time payments to eligible ERS retirees in Fiscal Year 2027, and \$5.2 million in funds for eligible GSEPS Law Enforcement Officer employees to support an enhanced 401(k) match, up to 15% of pay.

**Bill was assigned to the House Appropriations Committee on 1/16/2026. Bill pass the House Appropriations Committee on 3/9/2026 by Committee Substitute. Bill Substitute**

passed House Rules Committee on 3/9/26. Committee Substitute passed House with a vote of 159 to 4 and Senate assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee on 3/10/26. Bill passed Senate Appropriations Committee by Committee Substitute on 3/25/2026. Bill passed Senate by Committee Substitute by a vote of 52-0 and was immediately transmitted to the House on 3/27/26. A Conference committee was appointed by the House and Senate on 3/31/2026. The House and Senate agreed to the Conference Committee Report on 4/2/2026. Bill sent to Governor on 4/6/2026. Signed by Governor on 5/12/26 as Act 655.

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Legislation •  United States • Georgia • Bill

## [GA HB 438](#)

Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; allow certain sworn law enforcement officers to be eligible for retirement benefits at age 55; provisions

### **Last Action: May 11, 2026 - Act 439**

Enacted • 2025-2026 Regular Session • Introduced: February 12, 2025

Sponsors: **Clint Crowe (R-GA)**, **Eddie Lumsden (R-GA)**, **Deborah Silcox (R-GA)**, **Bill Hitchens (R-GA)**, **Shaw Blackmon (R-GA)**, **Beth Camp (R-GA)**, **Rick Williams (R-GA)**

### **Committee Assignments:**

House Committee on Retirement • Senate Committee on Retirement

## **Summary**

### **Your Summary**

This bill expands the current retirement eligibility and benefits applying to certain law enforcement personnel who are ERS members so as to include members who are in service with the Department of Public Safety as a sworn law enforcement officer, noncommissioned officer, or trooper (no longer limited to officers of the Uniform Division); Officers and agents of the GBI (no longer limited to agents); Game wardens (replaces the outdated term "conservation manager") of the DNR; and adds the commissioner and the deputy commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

Under this legislation, which would become effective July 1, 2026, such law enforcement groups under ERS would be eligible to retire with normal benefits at the age of 55 instead of 60 as long as they have at least 10 years of creditable service, and would also be eligible for Injury in the Line of Duty provisions as well as purchase of applicable, local creditable service.

This bill allows the above added law enforcement members of ERS to purchase up to five years of creditable service for certain prior service as a full time employee of a local governing authority in the State of Georgia beginning July 1, 2018. Creditable service would only be granted if the member (1) held a P.O.S.T. certified law enforcement position with the local governing authority, (2) is not eligible to receive a present or future benefits from a defined benefit or defined contribution retirement or pension plan in which member participated while employed by the local governing authority, and (3) has been a member of ERS for at least ten years.

Eligible members wishing to obtain such service may make application to the Board of Trustees and must pay an amount determined to be sufficient to cover the full actuarial cost of granting such service.

First year cost: \$661,000; UAAL increase \$1,250,000.

Similar proposed fiscal bills include: HB 612 (2021-22); HB 657 (2021-22); and HB 472 (2023-2024) with a first year cost of \$ 732,000.

**Bill was assigned to the House Retirement Committee on 2/13/2025. Bill was forwarded for actuarial study. Bill passed out of House Retirement Committee on 2/25/26. Bill passed out of House Rules Committee on 3/4/26. Bill passed House by a vote of 159 to 0 on 3/4/26. Bill assigned to the Senate Retirement Committee on 3/6/2026. Bill passed Senate Retirement Committee on 3/18/26. Bill passed Senate Rules Committee on 3/23/26. Bill passed Senate with a vote of 52 to 0 on 3/25/26. Bill sent to Governor on 4/6/26. Signed by Governor on 5/11/26 as Act 439.**

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Legislation •  United States • Georgia • Bill

## [GA HB 973](#)

Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

**Last Action: March 03, 2026 - Act 372**

Enacted • 2025-2026 Regular Session • Introduced: January 15, 2026

Sponsors: **Jon G. Burns (R-GA), Jan Jones (R-GA), Chuck Efstrotation (R-GA), Matt Hatchett (R-GA), Blake Tillery (R-GA)**

**Committee Assignments:**

House Committee on Appropriations • Senate Committee on Appropriations

## Summary

### Your Summary

The Governor's AFY 2026 recommendation includes: \$36.75 million paid in one-time payments to eligible ERS retirees in December 2025 and \$2,000 for a one-time salary supplement to eligible state employees.

The House's AFY 2026 recommendation includes: \$36.75 million paid in one-time payments to eligible ERS retirees in December 2025, \$2,000 for a one-time salary supplement to eligible state employees, and \$50 million to provide funds to strategically invest in increasing the funded ratio in order to improve long-term financial viability of the pension system and support state retirees.

The Senate's AFY 2026 recommendation includes: \$36.75 million paid in one-time payments to eligible ERS retirees in December 2025, \$1,250 for a one-time salary supplement to eligible state employees, and \$100 million to provide funds to strategically invest in increasing the funded ratio in order to improve long-term financial viability of the pension system and support state retirees.

The final Conference Committee recommendation includes: \$36.75 million paid in one-time payments to eligible ERS retirees in December 2025, \$2,000 for a one-time salary supplement to eligible state employees, \$100 million to increase funds to strategically invest in increasing the funded ratio in order to improve long-term financial viability of the pension system with the goal of restoring Cost-of-Living-Adjustments.

**Bill was assigned to the House Appropriations Committee on 1/16/2026. Bill passed the House Appropriations Committee by Committee Substitute on 2/4/2026. Bill passed the House Rules Committee on 2/4/2026 and was placed on the House debate calendar for 2/5/2026. Bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 167-5 on 2/5/2026. Bill assigned to the Senate Appropriations Committee on 2/5/26. Bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee by Committee Substitute on 2/18/2026. Bill passed the Senate Rules Committee on 2/19/2026 and will debated by the Senate on 2/20/2026. Bill passed the Senate by a vote of 49 to 1 on 2/20/2026 and was immediately transmitted to the House where they insisted on their position. A conference committee was appointed by both the House and Sente on 2/20/2026. The House and Senate agreed to the Conference Committee Report on 2/25/2026 and bill was immediately transmitted to the Governor. Bill signed by Governor on 3/3/2026.**