

# Legislative Update

Employees' Retirement System of Georgia

January 15, 2010

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## 2010 Legislative Session Convenes

The House and Senate officially convened on Monday, January 11th for the first day of the 2010 Legislative Session. The day consisted of basic procedural matters, such as first reading of bills and recommitments of bills.

However, much attention was focused in the House as Representative David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge) was elected as the new Speaker by a vote of 116 - 58. Several other Leadership position changes were made, including the election of a new Speaker Pro Tempore, Representative Jan Jones (R-Alpharetta), and the election of Representative Edward Lindsey (R-Atlanta) as Majority Whip.

With the election of Speaker Ralston, a few House Committee changes occurred. For a full listing of the changes, please click [here](#).

## Legislative Adjournment Schedule Announced through February 5th

January 11	Legislative Day 1
January 12	Legislative Day 2
January 13	Legislative Day 3
January 14	Legislative Day 4
January 15	Recess*
January 18 - 22	Recess*
January 25	Legislative Day 5
January 26	Legislative Day 6
January 27	Legislative Day 7
January 28	Legislative Day 8
January 29	Recess*
February 1	Legislative Day 9
February 2	Legislative Day 10
February 3	Legislative Day 11
February 4	Legislative Day 12
February 5	Legislative Day 13

\* Recess is when the General Assembly is not in Session.

## Governor Sonny Perdue Gives Final State of the State

Governor Sonny Perdue gave his final State of the State Address as House and Senate members convened for a joint session on Wednesday, January 13th, at 11 A.M. Governor Perdue welcomed members to the 2010 legislative session and highlighted the importance of this new legislative year. However, he did not provide his budget proposal as he has done in the past. Instead, the Governor's Budget will be available on Friday, January 15th.

To view the full text of the Governor's State of the State Address, click [here](#).

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## *LEGISLATIVE LOG*

Monday, January 11, 2010

### [HB 172 - Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; disability benefits; provisions](#)

Revises language relating to the handling of medical examinations for persons that are receiving disability benefits under the age of 60, by removing the ability for medical examinations to be conducted at the disability retiree's place of residence.

Additionally, this bill provides that earnable compensation in the calculation of earnings limitation for disability beneficiaries also include workers compensation income.

**HB 172 was recommitted to the Senate Retirement Committee by the full Senate.**

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

### [HB 916 - Retirement ages; nullify application for retirement; provisions](#)

Clarifies requirements for ERS members returning to service after retirement. Specifically, a member that has not reached normal retirement age (60 with at least 10 years of service) on the effective date of their retirement is required to wait two consecutive calendar months prior to returning to employment. The employer of the member is also required to certify that no agreement exists to allow such employee to return to service, including service as an independent contractor.

Members that have reached normal retirement age and return to service as an independent contractor are required to have their employing agency provide the Board of Trustees with certification that 1) the contracting entity has multiple employees; 2) the contracting entity has multiple contracts and the contracts are not limited to employers; and 3) the contractual relationship with the employer was not created to allow a retired employee to continue employment after retirement in a position similar to the one held before retirement.

**HB 916 was assigned to the House Retirement Committee by the full House.**

*LEGISLATIVE LOG - Continued*

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

No Bills were considered due to the Joint Session for Governor Sonny Perdue's State of the State Address.

Thursday, January 14, 2010

No Retirement Bills were considered today.

Friday, January 15, 2010

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