

Legislative Update

For the Week of: March 11 - March 15, 2013
Legislative Days: 31 - 34

March 15, 2013

Page 1

Inside This Update

- 1 Legislative Log
- 3 Final Legislative Schedule

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Legislation, please visit:
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Legislative Log

Monday, March 11, 2013

SB 178 – Georgia Legislative Retirement System; define a certain term; broaden certain provision

This legislation provides the Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees with the authority to comply with federally mandated requirements if a conflict arises between state and federal statute. This authority would normally be utilized only if action is required more quickly than enabling legislation can be enacted.

The bill also clarifies the term public employer as it relates to rehired retirees.

SB 178 was assigned to the House Retirement Committee.

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

HB 579 – Georgia Judicial Retirement System; member who was serving in full-time position on retirement may use prior part-time service for vesting; provide

This legislation changes provisions relating to the vesting requirements for judges moving from part-time service to full-time service in the Judicial Retirement System (JRS). Part-time judges currently vest in JRS after ten years of service, as do full-time judges. However, if a part-time judge moves into a full-time position, the years of service as a part-time judge are reduced by one third and a part-time judge that was vested in JRS is not eligible to use all of their part-time service towards vesting as a full-time judge.

This means the judge would have to work at least several more years to be eligible for a retirement benefit in JRS. Under the proposed changes, creditable service as a part-time judge will continue to be reduced by one third; however, part-time judges that move into a full-time judge position will now be allowed to retain vesting and qualification rights in JRS.

HB 579 was assigned to the House Retirement Committee.

Legislative Log (continued)

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

SB 142 – Georgia Judicial Retirement System; board of trustees; authority to determine the time/circumstances of paying benefits; qualified plan under federal law

This legislation requires that employers notify the retirement system when they hire a retired employee. The employer must provide reports to the retirement system regarding the number of hours the retiree works. If the retiree works more than 1,040 hours in any calendar year, the employer must notify the retirement system, and if they fail to do so, they will be required to reimburse the retirement system for any benefits wrongfully paid to the employee.

The bill also has provisions providing the Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees with the authority to comply with federally mandated requirements if a conflict arises between state and federal statute. This authority would normally be utilized only if action is required more quickly than enabling legislation can be enacted.

SB 142 received a DO PASS by Committee Substitute from the House Retirement Committee.

SB 143 – Retirement System; board of trustees of public retirement systems; provide duties

Prior to July 1, 2010, boards of trustees of public retirement systems were subject to applicable provisions in Title 53 dealing with Common Law fiduciary duties. However, an oversight occurred when the statute was amended. This bill adds back needed references concerning Common Law fiduciary duties for boards of trustees of public retirement systems.

SB 143 received a DO PASS from the House Retirement Committee.

SB 178 – Georgia Legislative Retirement System; define a certain term; broaden certain provision

This legislation provides the Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees with the authority to comply with federally mandated requirements if a conflict arises between state and federal statute. This authority would normally be utilized only if action is required more quickly than enabling legislation can be enacted.

The bill also clarifies the term public employer as it relates to rehired retirees.

SB 178 received a DO PASS from the House Retirement Committee.

Legislative Log (continued)

Thursday, March 14, 2013

No action was taken on retirement bills.

Friday, March 15 2013

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

Final Legislative Adjournment Schedule Announced

March 20	Legislative Day 35
March 21	Legislative Day 36
March 22	Legislative Day 37
March 23-24	Recess*
March 25	Legislative Day 38
March 26	Legislative Day 39
March 27	Recess*
March 28	Legislative Day 40

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