

Weekly Legislative Update

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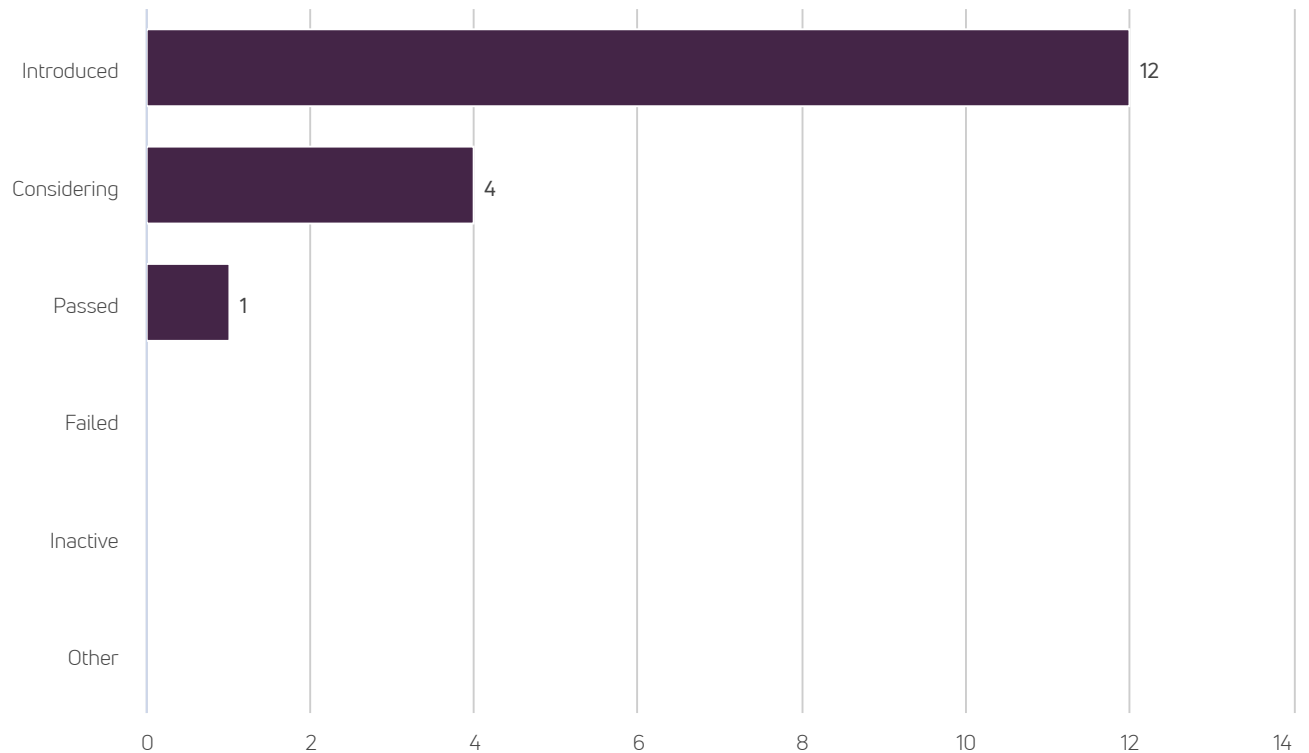
Jim Potvin
Executive Director, ERSGA
404-603-5602
jim.potvin@ers.ga.gov

Kelly L. Moody
Director, Legislative Affairs Division, ERSGA
404-603-5646
kelly.moody@ers.ga.gov

Georgiana Pennell
Legal and Policy Research Analyst, ERSGA
404-603-5616
georgiana.pennell@ers.ga.gov

Bills by Status

■ Bills by Status

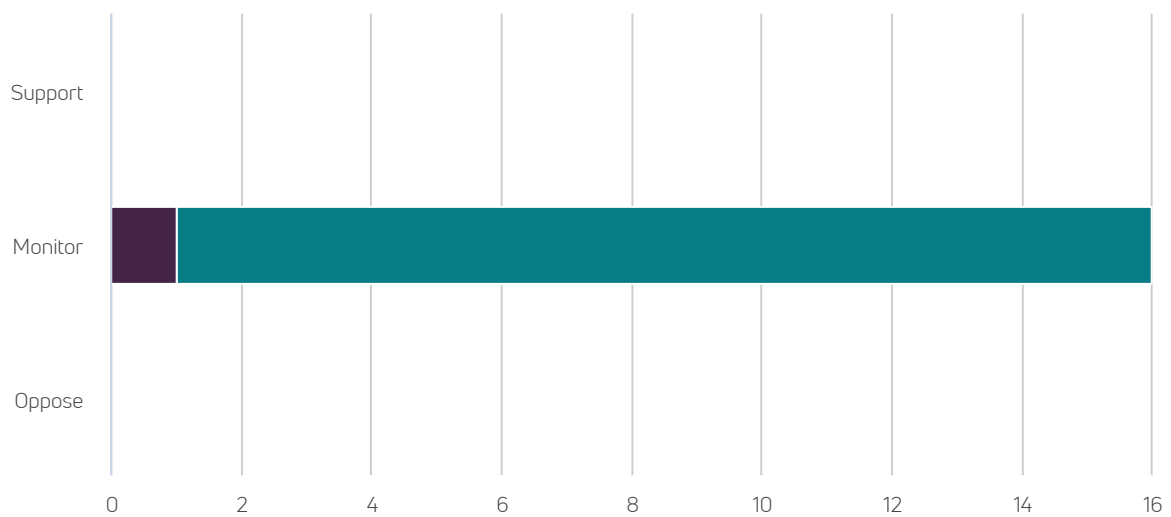


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Bills by Priority & Position

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low

Bills



Highchar

Title: Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Current Status: Passed Senate

Introduction Date: 2025-01-16

Last Action Date: Senate Transmitted House. 2025-02-26

Summary: The Governor's recommendation in the Amended FY 2025 Budget includes \$26,750,000 supplemental appropriations to support one-time benefit adjustments for eligible ERS retirees as authorized by the Board of Trustees. If enacted, the Board will evaluate various calculations to most efficiently and fairly allocate the funds. This is expected to be presented to the full Board in April, with an anticipated payment to eligible ERS retirees in June 2025. The Governor's recommendation in the Amended FY 2025 Budget also includes \$500 million in funds to ERS to strategically invest in increasing the plans funded ratio in order to improve the long-term financial viability of the system. The House recommendation in the Amended FY 2025 Budget includes \$26,750,000 supplemental appropriations to support one-time benefit adjustments for eligible ERS retirees as authorized by the Board of Trustees. If enacted, the Board will evaluate various calculations to most efficiently and fairly allocate the funds. This is expected to be presented to the full Board in April, with an anticipated payment to eligible ERS retirees in June 2025. The House recommendation in the Amended FY 2025 Budget also includes \$500 million in funds to ERS to strategically invest in increasing the plans funded ratio in order to improve the long-term financial viability of the system. The Senate recommendation in the Amended FY 2025 Budget includes \$26,750,000 supplemental appropriations to support one-time benefit adjustments for eligible ERS retirees as authorized by the Board of Trustees. If enacted, the Board will evaluate various calculations to most efficiently and fairly allocate the funds. This is expected to be presented to the full Board in April, with an anticipated payment to eligible ERS retirees in June 2025. The Senate recommendation in the Amended FY 2025 Budget also includes \$500 million in funds to ERS to strategically invest in increasing the plans funded ratio in order to improve the long-term financial viability of the system. ***Bill was assigned to the House Appropriations Committee on 1/17/2025. Bill passed by Committee Substitute from the House Appropriations Committee on 2/5/2025. Bill passed the House Rules Committee on 2/5/2025 and is scheduled to be voted on by the full House on 2/6/2025. Bill passed the House by a vote of 166 Yeas to 3 Nays and was immediately transmitted to the Senate 2/6/2025. Bill passed by Committee Substitute from the Senate Appropriations Committee on 2/24/2025. Bill passed the full Senate by a vote of 55-1 and was immediately transmitted to the House on 2/26/2025. ***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act making and providing appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, known as the "General Appropriations Act," Act No. 709, approved May 7, 2024, so as to make, provide, and change certain appropriations for the operation of the state government and its departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, and other agencies, for the university system, common schools, counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions, for all other governmental activities, projects, and undertakings authorized by law, and for all leases, contracts, agreements, and grants authorized by law; to provide for the control and administration of funds; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Title 47

GA HB 78

High Priority

 **Monitor**

Title: Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; total percentage of funds invested in alternative investments; raise limit

Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2025-01-16

Last Action Date: Senate Read and Referred. 2025-02-26

Summary: This bill would amend provisions relating to the Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law. Current law authorizes the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia to a five percent investment in alternative investments. If this legislation is enacted, the limitation currently placed on the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia would be removed and the System would be authorized to invest up to 10 percent of their assets in alternative investments. Such provisions would become effective July 1, 2025. ***Bill was assigned to the House Retirement Committee 1/17/2025. Bill reported out of the House Retirement Committee with Do Pass by Substitute recommendation 2/20/2025. Bill passed the House Rules Committee on 2/21/25 and will be debated by the Full House on 2/24/2025. Bill passed the Full House by a vote of 161-9 on 2/24/2025 and is transmitted to the Senate. Bill assignment to the Senate Retirement Committee on 2/26/2025.***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 7 of Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law," so as to raise the limit for the total percentage of funds that the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia may invest in alternative investments; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Title 47

GA HB 406

High Priority

 **Monitor**

Title: Judicial Retirement System; increase retirement age of superior court judges first taking office on or after July 1, 2026

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-02-11

Last Action Date: House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute. 2025-02-26

Summary: The current normal retirement age for all members of the Judicial Retirement System (JRS) is age 60. This bill changes the method for calculating retirement benefits for any person who becomes a member of JRS on or after the effective date of this act (potentially July 1, 2025 or July 1, 2026 dependent on enactment) and serves as a Superior Court Judge. Any person who first becomes a member after the effective date of this bill may still retire at age 60; however,

their retirement benefits will be reduced by any service time earned as a Superior Court Judge. Once such person reaches age 65, their retirement benefit will be adjusted to account for all years of service. ***Bill assigned to House Judiciary Committee 2/13/2025. Bill was Withdrawn from the House Judiciary Committee and recommitted to the House Retirement Committee 2/18/2025. Bill was discussed during House Retirement 2/18/2025 meeting, but Leverett asked bill to be held until amendments could be made. Bill passed the House Retirement Committee by Substitute on 2/25/2025.***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 23 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia Judicial Retirement System, so as to increase the retirement age of superior court judges first taking office on or after July 1, 2026; to provide for an effective date; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Title 47

GA HB 85

High Priority

 Monitor

Title: Superior Court Judicial Compensation Reform Act; enact

Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2025-01-16

Last Action Date: Senate Read and Referred. 2025-02-21

Summary: This bill changes the way salary and locality pay is calculated for retirement benefit calculation purposes for Superior Court Judges, which will simultaneously affect retirement benefit calculations for State Court Judges, Solicitors-General of State Courts, and Juvenile Court Judges (as such amounts may not exceed those of Superior Court Judges under O.C.G.A. § 47-23-100). The annual salary of each Superior Court Judge shall be set by the General Assembly in the General Appropriations Act, provided that such salary shall not exceed 90 percent of the annual salary fixed for the judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia on July 1 of the second preceding state fiscal year. In the event that the state annual salary to a Superior Court Judge exceeds \$201,060.00, the maximum allowable amount of annual locality pay provided to a judge by the county or counties comprising a judicial circuit shall be capped at \$20,106.00, and such cap shall be reduced in an amount equal to half of the percentage amount of such state annual salary increase above \$201,060.00. Superior Court Judges will have the ability to choose between the defined base salary or choose to receive annual locality pay provided by their Judicial Circuit, which shall not exceed 10 percent of the state annual salary to such judge. All such locality pay shall be in lieu of and not in addition to any county salary supplements previously provided by the county or counties. All judges within a judicial circuit who are in office as of July 1, 2025, and elect to exercise the option, or who take office after July 1, 2025, shall receive equal locality pay from any given county within such circuit that has opted to provide such pay. Failure to exercise this choice will result in such judge receiving default compensation. The option exercised will go into effect the next pay period at least five business days following the exercise of such option. The bill also suspends local supplements provided for by local laws on or after July 1, 2025 but does not prevent local salary

supplements otherwise authorized by law on June 30, 2025. Such provisions would become effective July 1, 2025. ***Assigned to House Judiciary Committee 1/17/25. Bill passed by Committee Substitute from the House Judiciary Committee on 2/12/2025. Bill passed the House Floor by a vote of 163-7. Bill assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee on 2/21/2025.***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 15 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions concerning superior courts, so as to modify provisions regarding the compensation received by superior court judges; to amend Code Section 45-7-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to annual salaries of certain state officials and cost-of-living adjustments, so as to revise provisions relating to calculating and setting the salaries of superior court judges; to provide a definition; to amend Chapter 3 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to laws and statutes, so as to suspend the operation of local laws or local ordinances or resolutions that use a superior court judge's salary for the calculation of the salary or compensation of other officers, officials, or employees; to provide a short title; to provide for an effective date; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Title 47

GA SB 226

High Priority

 Monitor

Title: Peach State Saves Programs; provide for creation

Current Status: In Senate


Introduction Date: 2025-02-20

Last Action Date: Senate Read and Referred. 2025-02-21

Summary: This bill creates the Peach State Saves Program, a state-administered defined contribution retirement plan for private persons and businesses who employ 5 or more employees 18 years of age or older. These employers must automatically enroll their employees in the program at a 5% employee contribution to an individual Roth IRA account (percent and type of account adjustable by the program's Board), and employees can opt-out or adjust contribution rates at any time. Employers already offering a qualifying retirement plan would be exempt. Employers who fail to enroll employees in a timely manner would owe \$250 per employee during the first year of noncompliance and \$500 per employee during subsequent years. These penalties can be waived if the employer corrects the violation within 90 days. Employers who fail to facilitate payroll deductions and remit contributions to the program in a timely manner would be subject to a \$500 penalty per violation. Employers would not be responsible for investment decisions or program administration, and would be shielded from liability related to the program. The program would be administered by the ERSGA and managed by a Board consisting of the ERSGA Board of Trustees plus three additional members with relevant expertise who would be appointed by the Governor of Georgia. The program's implementation schedule must be substantially completed on or before January 1, 2028. ***Bill assigned to the Senate Retirement Committee on 2/21/2025. Bill failed to make it out of the Senate Retirement Committee on 2/27/2025.***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to labor and industrial relations, so as to provide for the creation of the Peach State Saves program, a defined contribution retirement program; to provide for definitions; to provide for appointment of a board of trustees; to provide for limitations on liability; to provide for the confidentiality of program participants; to provide for a date for the establishment of the program; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Agency Issues/Aw...

GA SB 198

High Priority

 Monitor

Title: Georgia Legislative Retirement System; board of trustees of the system to increase benefit multipliers for members; provide

Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2025-02-19

Last Action Date: Senate Read and Referred. 2025-02-20

Summary: This bill provides the Legislative Retirement System (LRS) Board with the authority to increase the benefit multiplier for members of LRS in relation to the Funded Ratio of the System being at 120 percent. Any benefit increases granted would first be awarded to LRS retirees who currently have a lower benefit multiplier (\$36) than the multiplier (\$50) established in by Act 747 in 2022. Once retirees benefit multiplier is equal to active members, future increases could then be granted to both active and retired members based on the Funded Ratio of the System being at 120 percent. The minimum increase shall not be less than \$1. The legislation provides for increases in the member contributions that are proportional to any increase in the benefit multiplier. Such provisions would become effective July 1, 2026. ***Bill assigned to Senate Retirement Committee on 2/20/2025. Senate Retirement Committee voted to send bill forward for actuarial investigation on 2/25/2025.***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 6 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia Legislative Retirement System, so as to provide for the board of trustees of the system to increase benefit multipliers for members; to provide for the system to maintain a minimum 120 percent funded ratio; to provide for conditions for such benefit multiplier increases; to provide for automatic increases in employee contributions proportional to benefit multiplier increases; to allow for members who joined after 2009 to receive benefit multiplier increases; to provide for definitions; to provide for conforming changes; to provide conditions for an effective date and automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Title 47

GA SB 209

High Priority

 Monitor

Title: Teachers Retirement System of Georgia; members of the Public School Employees Retirement System to make an irrevocable election to become members; permit certain persons

Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2025-02-19

Last Action Date: Senate Read and Referred. 2025-02-20

Summary: This bill provides an option for public school permanent employees employed no less than half time, who are hired on or after September 2, 2026, who would have otherwise been a Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) member, to make a one-time irrevocable election to become a Teachers Retirement System (TRS) member. Members who make this election would not be eligible for any transfer of creditable service other than actual TRS membership service or military creditable service. Vested persons who transfer into TRS may elect to keep their accumulated contributions with PSERS and receive their earned pension upon reaching normal retirement age. Vested members who elect to withdraw accumulated contributions from PSERS would forfeit any right to a future benefit. Nonvested members who transfer into TRS would be required to withdraw their accumulated contributions from PSERS. This Act would become effective July 1, 2026. ***Bill assigned to Senate Retirement Committee on 2/20/2025. Senate Retirement Committee voted to send bill forward for actuarial investigation on 2/27/2025***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to retirement and pensions, so as to permit certain persons who would otherwise be required to be members of the Public School Employees Retirement System to make an irrevocable election to become members of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia; to provide for conditions; to prohibit transfers of creditable service; to provide for related matters; to provide conditions for an effective date and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Title 47

GA SB 216

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

Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2025-02-19

Last Action Date: Senate Read and Referred. 2025-02-20

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. ***Bill assigned to Senate Retirement Committee on 2/20/2025. Senate Retirement Committee voted to send bill forward for actuarial investigation on 2/27/2025***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 23 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia Judicial Retirement System, so as to provide for membership in the system for individuals employed as the director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission; to provide for an election for such current employees; to provide for transfer of funds; to provide for payment of actuarial costs; to provide for transfer of membership service; to provide for earnable monthly compensation for purposes of contributions and benefit amounts; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters; to provide conditions for an effective date and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Title 47

GA HB 438

High Priority

 Monitor

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

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-02-12

Last Action Date: House Second Readers. 2025-02-18

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. 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 House Retirement Committee 2/13/2025.*****

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia, so as to allow all sworn law enforcement officers serving in and the commissioner and deputy commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to be eligible for regular retirement benefits at the age of 55 years, certain disability benefits, and certain provisions for purchasing creditable service; to provide conditions for an effective date and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Title 47

GA SB 157

High Priority

 Monitor

Title: Retirement; certain members or former members of the General Assembly to buy into the Georgia Legislative Retirement System; provide

Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2025-02-12

Last Action Date: Senate Read and Referred. 2025-02-13

Summary: This bill allows a member or former member of the General Assembly to make an irrevocable election to become a member of the Legislative Retirement System (LRS) who served on or after January 12, 1981, and to obtain creditable service for prior service as a member of the General Assembly as long as the member has served, at the time of the application, at least four years or two full terms as a member of the General Assembly. Persons who wish to earn such creditable service would be required to pay to full actuarial cost of the service granted to the board of trustees at submission of the member's application. No creditable service shall be granted or obtained pursuant to this subsection if such service may be used to calculate creditable service under any other public retirement system created by this title. This bill would require the Employees' Retirement System to physically mail a one-time notice in writing to the latest reported mailing address of all eligible members or former members of the General Assembly who meet the above criteria by September 1, 2026. Any member of the General Assembly who obtains creditable service for prior service as a member of the General Assembly whose service concluded before January 1, 2022, shall receive the monthly pension amount provided in O.C.G.A. 47-6-80(d); and every member whose service concluded on or after January 1, 2022, shall receive the monthly pension amount provided in subsection O.C.G.A. 47-6-80(c.1). This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026 if funds are appropriated. ***Bill was assigned to Senate Retirement Committee on 2/13/2025. Senate Retirement Committee voted to send bill forward for actuarial investigation via Committee Substitute (LC 56 0334S) on 2/27/2025.***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 47-6-40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to qualifications for membership, irrevocable election for certain members of General Assembly, membership of persons who cease to become members before age 60, termination of membership, and application for additional creditable service, so as to

provide for certain members or former members of the General Assembly to buy into the Georgia Legislative Retirement System; to provide for creditable service and the payment of the full actuarial value of such; to provide conditions for an effective date and automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Title 47

GA SB 23

High Priority

 Monitor

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

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-01-17

Last Action Date: House Second Readers. 2025-02-12

Summary: This bill would amend provisions relating to the Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law. Current law authorizes most eligible large retirement systems to invest up to 10 percent of their assets in alternative investments. However, the Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System are limited to a five percent investment in alternative investments. If this legislation is enacted, the limitation currently placed on the Employees' Retirement System would be removed and the System would be authorized to invest up to 10 percent of their assets in alternative investments. Such provisions would become effective July 1, 2025. ***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.***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 7 of Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law," so as to raise the limit for the total percentage of funds that the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia may invest in alternative investments; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Title 47

GA HB 337

High Priority

 Monitor

Title: State Law Enforcement Officer Plan' or 'SLEO Plan'; enact

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-02-06

Last Action Date: House Second Readers. 2025-02-11

Summary: This bill establishes the State Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) Plan under the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia (ERS). It provides for "State law enforcement officers" to make an irrevocable election to participate into the SLEO Plan instead of any other retirement system, plan, or program established under ERS. The term "State law enforcement officer" is defined as any member employed by the: • Uniform Division of the Department of Public Safety as an officer, a noncommissioned officer, or a trooper; • Georgia Bureau of Investigation as an officer or agent; • Department of Natural Resources as a game warden; • Department of Revenue as an alcohol and tobacco officer or agent or as an officer of the Special Investigation Unit; • Motor Carrier Compliance Division as a sworn law enforcement officer; or • Capitol Police Division of the Department of Public Safety as a sworn law enforcement officer. Eligible State law enforcement officers must notify ERS of such irrevocable election into the SLEO Plan within 90 days of becoming a State law enforcement officer, or July 1, 2026, whichever is later, after which point they will be considered an "electing officer." This bill also provides that no "electing officer" shall be eligible to retire at any point prior to July 1, 2031, and if they should do so before such date, he or she will not be entitled to any of the enhanced benefits provided under the SLEO Plan. Members of the SLEO Plan will be entitled to the same benefits currently granted to law enforcement officers under ERS. In addition, they will be required to contribute five percent (5%) of his or her earnable compensation and receive enhanced retirement benefits based on their years of service. The following outlines the benefit structure for "electing officers" within the SLEO Plan: Years of Creditable Service % of Average Final Compensation 10 10% 11 13% 12 16% 13 19% 14 22% 15 25% 16 30% 17 35% 18 40% 19 45% 20 50% 21 56% 22 62% 23 68% 24 74% 25 80% After an SLEO member reaches 25 years of creditable service, they will not be required to make further contributions to the Plan and their retirement benefit will be calculated based upon his or her average final compensation at such time. If such member does not elect to retire after obtaining 25 years of creditable service, their retirement benefit, in addition to any postretirement benefit adjustments granted, will be paid into a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) account until such member retires. Lastly, this bill requires ERS to create DROP accounts for each eligible "electing officer," where the related benefit amounts deposited earn interest at a market rate, to be determined by the ERS Board. Upon retirement, members of the SLEO Plan with a DROP account are entitled to receive a lump sum, a partial lump sum, or an annuity payment from such funds in her or her account. Additionally, the Board can make available options to roll such DROP account funds into certain tax-advantaged retirement accounts. ***Bill was assigned to the House Retirement Committee on 2/10/2025.***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia, so as to establish the State Law Enforcement Officer Plan to offer enhanced benefits for electing state law enforcement officers; to provide for irrevocable elections; to provide for conditions and limitations; to provide for deferred retirement option program accounts; to provide for definitions; to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to provide conditions for an effective date and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

Title: State Law Enforcement Officer Plan' or 'SLEO Plan'; enact

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-02-06

Last Action Date: House Second Readers. 2025-02-11

Summary: This bill establishes the State Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) Plan under the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia (ERS). The bill amends the definition of a 'State law enforcement officer' to mean any sworn police officers certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council employed to perform the duties of a peace officer, as such term is defined in Code Section 16-1-3, by the: Department of Corrections; Department of Community Supervision; Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; Office of the Attorney General; Georgia Board of Dentistry; Georgia Composite Medical Board; Department of Driver Services; Department of Transportation; Office of the Inspector General; Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia; State Board of Workers' Compensation; Department of Juvenile Justice; State Board of Pardons and Paroles; Georgia Public Safety Training Center; Public Service Commission; Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Agriculture; Department of Revenue; Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency; State Forestry Commission; Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner; Georgia Ports Authority; Georgia World Congress Center Police; and Department of Public Safety. Eligible State law enforcement officers must notify ERS of such irrevocable election into the SLEO Plan within 90 days of becoming a State law enforcement officer, or July 1, 2026, whichever is later, after which point they will be considered an "electing officer." This bill also provides that no "electing officer" shall be eligible to retire at any point prior to July 1, 2031, and if they should do so before such date, he or she will not be entitled to any of the enhanced benefits provided under the SLEO Plan. Members of the SLEO Plan will be entitled to the same benefits currently granted to law enforcement officers or members under ERS. In addition, they will be required to contribute five percent (5%) of his or her earnable compensation and receive enhanced retirement benefits based on their years of service. The following outlines the benefit structure for "electing officers" within the SLEO Plan: Years of Creditable Service % of Average Final Compensation 10 10% 11 13% 12 16% 13 19% 14 22% 15 25% 16 30% 17 35% 18 40% 19 45% 20 50% 21 56% 22 62% 23 68% 24 74% 25 80% After an SLEO member reaches 25 years of creditable service, they will not be required to make further contributions to the Plan and their retirement benefit will be calculated based upon his or her average final compensation at such time. If such member does not elect to retire after obtaining 25 years of creditable service, their retirement benefit, in addition to any postretirement benefit adjustments granted, will be paid into a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) account until such member retires. Lastly, this bill requires ERS to create DROP accounts for each eligible "electing officer," where the related benefit amounts deposited earn interest at a market rate, to be determined by the ERS Board. Upon retirement, members of the SLEO Plan with a DROP account are entitled to receive a lump sum, a partial lump sum, or an annuity payment from such funds in her or her account. Additionally, the Board can make available options to roll such DROP account funds into certain tax-advantaged retirement accounts. ***Bill was assigned to the House Retirement Committee on 2/10/2025.***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia, so as to establish the State Law Enforcement Officer Plan to offer enhanced benefits for electing state law enforcement officers; to provide for irrevocable elections; to provide for conditions and limitations; to provide for deferred retirement option program accounts; to provide for definitions; to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to provide conditions for an effective date and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Title 47

GA SR 71

High Priority

 Monitor

Title: Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; congratulate

Current Status: Enacted

Introduction Date: 2025-01-30

Last Action Date: Senate Read and Adopted. 2025-02-03

Description: A RESOLUTION congratulating the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia upon its 75th anniversary; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Title 47

GA HB 68

High Priority

 Monitor

Title: General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-01-16

Last Action Date: House Second Readers. 2025-01-27

Summary: The Governor's recommendation in the FY 2026 Budget includes \$26,750,000 in appropriations to support one-time benefit adjustments for eligible ERS retirees as authorized by the Board of Trustees. If enacted, the Board will evaluate various calculations to most efficiently and fairly allocate the funds. ***Bill was assigned to the House Appropriations Committee on 1/17/2025.***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to make and provide appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026; to make and provide such appropriations for the operation of the state government and its departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, and other agencies, for the university system, common schools, counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions, for all other governmental activities, projects, and undertakings authorized by law, and for all leases, contracts, agreements, and grants authorized by law; to provide for the control and administration of funds; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

GA HB 37

Medium Priority

👁 Monitor

Title: Education; require local school systems to notify employees regarding social security withholdings and eligibility for certain benefits

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-01-14

Last Action Date: House Second Readers. 2025-01-16

Summary: This would require all local school systems to provide specified notices to employees regarding social security withholdings and eligibility for inclusion in certain benefits, pension, or retirement plans throughout their time of employment. ***Bill was assigned to the House Education Committee on 1/15/25.***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Subpart 2 of Part 6 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to conditions of employment in elementary and secondary education, so as to require local school systems to provide notice to employees regarding social security withholdings and eligibility for inclusion in certain benefits, pension, or retirement plans; to provide for an effective date; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

📁 Agency Issues/Aw...

GA SB 11

High Priority

👁 Monitor

Title: Retirement; creditable service for certain military service; provide

Current Status: In Senate

Introduction Date: 2025-01-15

Last Action Date: Senate Read and Referred. 2025-01-16

Summary: This bill allows ERS members with at least ten years of membership service to obtain up to 36 months of creditable service, awarded month for month, for active military service in the U.S. armed forces performed on or after January 1, 1990. In order to obtain such credit, the member shall: (1) Apply in a method or manner prescribed by the ERS Board of Trustees "Board"; (2) Submit proof of qualifying active military service as deemed necessary by the Board; and (3) Pay to the Board the amount that the Board determines to be the full actuarial cost equal to such eligible creditable service. Members are eligible to make a one-time payment of the full amount within 90 days, or may choose to participate in a payment plan like that established in O.C.G.A. § 47-2-101. Members shall not receive such creditable service: • If such member was not honorably discharged; • For reserve duty; • For any period of time for which he or she obtained ERS membership service; or • For any portion of such member's active military service in the U.S. armed forces that has been or will be used in the determination of eligibility for retirement benefits or allowances from any other state or federal retirement program, excluding social

security. Similar fiscal bills from previous sessions include: SB 149 (2015-16), with a \$3,120,000 first year cost; SB 150 (2015-16); SB 10 (2017-18); SB 129 (2017-18), with \$0 cost since full actuarial cost; and SB 47 (2019-20), with \$0 cost since full actuarial cost, SB 85 (2023-2024), with \$0 cost since full actuarial cost. ***Assigned to Senate Retirement Committee 1/16/25. Bill was forwarded for Actuarial Study by the Senate Retirement Committee 2/5/2025 and will be eligible for passage in the 2026 Session. ***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 5 of Chapter 2 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to service creditable toward retirement benefits, so as to provide for creditable service for certain military service; to provide for application and payment; to provide for related matters; to provide conditions for an effective date and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Location: US-GA

 Title 47