



DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

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March 6, 2009

The Honorable Ronald Ramsey, Sr.
State Senator
Coverdell Legislative Office Building, Room 320-B
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification
Senate Bill (LC 21 0379)

Dear Senator Ramsey:

This bill would amend provisions relating to membership under the Teachers Retirement System. Specifically, this bill would define the phrase 'participating local school system' to mean a local school system which has exercised the option to allow its 'public school employees' to participate in the Teachers Retirement System. Under the provisions of this bill, any 'public school employee' that works for a 'participating local school system' may elect to become a member of the Teachers Retirement System. This bill would authorize such persons to establish creditable service in the Teachers Retirement System. The amount of creditable service granted would be dependent upon the amount of funds remitted to the Teachers Retirement System by or on behalf of the employee, without creating any accrued actuarial liability to the Teachers Retirement System. This bill also specifies that the respective board of education would be responsible for paying the employer contributions for any persons who elect membership in the Teachers Retirement System under the provisions of this bill. This bill specifies that employees who elect to transfer to the Teachers Retirement System would not be entitled to apply the same years of service towards creditable service in both systems.

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This is to certify that this bill is a fiscal retirement bill as defined in the Public Retirement Systems Standards Law.

Respectfully,

/s/ Russell W. Hinton
State Auditor

RWH/cs