



Department of Audits and Accounts

270 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 1-156
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor
(404) 656-2174

January 25, 2016

The Honorable Ellis Black
State Senator
Coverdell Legislative Office Building, Room 304-A
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification
Senate Bill 336 (LC 43 0254)

Dear Senator Black:

This bill would amend provisions relating to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System. Specifically, this bill would now allow each employer to establish a retirement plan or plans by resolution of the governing body of a municipal corporation. Currently, this must be done by ordinance of the governing body of a municipal corporation or by resolution of the governing body of other employers. This bill would also clarify that employee contributions cannot exceed 50 percent of the value of an employee's benefit payable from the plan, except with respect to any employee contributions made to purchase additional service credit.

This bill further amends provisions under the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System that relate to the establishment and use of master plans. Currently the Board of Trustees has the authority to establish master plans which may be adopted by any employer that has fewer than 16 employees who are qualified to participate and wish to make such election. If this legislation is enacted, eligibility for participation would be expanded to also allow employers with 16 or more eligible employees to participate in the master plan. Additionally, this bill would clarify that employee contributions into a master plan cannot exceed 50 percent of the value of an employee's benefit payable from the plan, except with respect to any employee contributions made to purchase additional service credit.

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

Respectfully,

s/ Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

GSG/cs