

Senate Bill 248

By: Senators Albers of the 56th, Harper of the 7th and Robertson of the 29th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 7 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating the  
2 Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund, so as to increase the monthly dues amount for members;  
3 to increase the tax on premiums charged by fire insurance companies for certain classes of  
4 coverage; to increase the maximum monthly benefit amount payable to beneficiaries; to  
5 provide for related matters; to provide conditions for an effective date and automatic repeal;  
6 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 7 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia  
10 Firefighters' Pension Fund, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 47-7-60,  
11 relating to dues required of active members, effect of failure to pay dues in timely manner,  
12 and suspended membership, as follows:

13 "(a) Each active member shall pay to the fund the sum of ~~\$25.00~~ \$50.00 for each month  
14 of service as a firefighter or volunteer firefighter in a fire department. Such monthly  
15 payments shall be due on or before the tenth day of each month of service."

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code  
18 Section 47-7-61, relating to tax on premiums charged by fire insurance companies for certain  
19 classes of coverage, exclusions, and penalty for failure to report and pay such tax, as follows:

20 "(a)(1) Every fire insurance company, corporation, or association doing business within  
21 this state and writing fire, lightning, or extended coverage, inland marine or allied lines,  
22 or windstorm insurance policies covering risks located within this state shall on or before  
23 April 1 of each year file a return with and pay to the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund  
24 a tax of ~~1~~ 2 percent of the amounts properly reported for the calendar year preceding the  
25 filing of such return on the Exhibit of Premiums and Losses of the Annual Statement

26 form for property and casualty insurance companies adopted by the National Association  
 27 of Insurance Commissioners as required by Title 33 or by the regulations of the  
 28 Commissioner of Insurance with respect to business conducted within this state to be  
 29 filed by such company, corporation, or association with the Commissioner of Insurance,  
 30 as follows:

31 (A) One hundred percent of the gross direct premiums written for fire insurance  
 32 coverage, less the exclusions permitted by paragraph (2) of this subsection, as required  
 33 to be reported on line 1 of the Exhibit of Premiums and Losses;

34 (B) Fifty percent of the gross direct premiums written for allied lines insurance  
 35 coverage, less the exclusions permitted by paragraph (2) of this subsection, as required  
 36 to be reported on line 2.1 of the Exhibit of Premiums and Losses;

37 (C) Sixty-five percent of the gross direct premiums written for homeowner's multiple  
 38 peril coverage, less the exclusions permitted by paragraph (2) of this subsection, as  
 39 required to be reported on line 4 of the Exhibit of Premiums and Losses;

40 (D) One hundred percent of the gross direct premiums written for commercial multiple  
 41 peril coverage, less the exclusions permitted by paragraph (2) of this subsection, as  
 42 required to be reported on line 5.1 of the Exhibit of Premiums and Losses;

43 (E) Thirty percent of the gross direct premiums written for inland marine insurance  
 44 coverage, as required to be reported on line 9 of the Exhibit of Premiums and Losses;

45 (F) Twelve percent of the gross direct premiums written for private passenger  
 46 automobile physical damage insurance coverage, as required to be reported on line 21.1  
 47 of the Exhibit of Premiums and Losses; and

48 (G) Twelve percent of the gross direct premiums written for commercial automobile  
 49 physical damage insurance coverage, as required to be reported on line 21.2 of the  
 50 Exhibit of Premiums and Losses."

51 **SECTION 3.**

52 Said chapter is further amended by adding three new paragraphs to subsection (g) of Code  
 53 Section 47-7-100, relating to eligibility for full pension benefits, eligibility for partial  
 54 benefits, optional pension benefits, vesting of rights to pension benefits, and early retirement  
 55 provisions, to read as follows:

56 "(6) Effective July 1, 2020, the maximum monthly retirement benefit which would  
 57 otherwise be payable to persons retired under this Code section prior to July 1, 2020,  
 58 shall be increased by the amount of \$100.00 per month, and the monthly retirement  
 59 benefit of each person who retired under this chapter prior to that date or the monthly  
 60 benefit of any surviving spouse or selected beneficiary who was receiving a benefit prior  
 61 to that date shall be increased by a percentage of \$100.00 which is equal to the percentage

62 that the retired person's, surviving spouse's, or selected beneficiary's monthly benefit  
 63 payable immediately prior to July 1, 2020, bore to the maximum monthly benefit  
 64 otherwise payable to such person under this Code section prior to July 1, 2020.

65 (7) Effective July 1, 2021, the maximum monthly retirement benefit which would  
 66 otherwise be payable to persons retired under this Code section prior to July 1, 2021,  
 67 shall be increased by the amount of \$150.00 per month, and the monthly retirement  
 68 benefit of each person who retired under this chapter prior to that date or the monthly  
 69 benefit of any surviving spouse or selected beneficiary who was receiving a benefit prior  
 70 to that date shall be increased by a percentage of \$100.00 which is equal to the percentage  
 71 that the retired person's, surviving spouse's, or selected beneficiary's monthly benefit  
 72 payable immediately prior to July 1, 2021, bore to the maximum monthly benefit  
 73 otherwise payable to such person under this Code section prior to July 1, 2021.

74 (8) Effective July 1, 2022, the maximum monthly retirement benefit which would  
 75 otherwise be payable to persons retired under this Code section prior to July 1, 2022,  
 76 shall be increased by the amount of \$200.00 per month, and the monthly retirement  
 77 benefit of each person who retired under this chapter prior to that date or the monthly  
 78 benefit of any surviving spouse or selected beneficiary who was receiving a benefit prior  
 79 to that date shall be increased by a percentage of \$200.00 which is equal to the percentage  
 80 that the retired person's, surviving spouse's, or selected beneficiary's monthly benefit  
 81 payable immediately prior to July 1, 2022, bore to the maximum monthly benefit  
 82 otherwise payable to such person under this Code section prior to July 1, 2022."

83 **SECTION 4.**

84 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2020, only if it is determined to have been  
 85 concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia  
 86 Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not  
 87 become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2020, as  
 88 required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

89 **SECTION 5.**

90 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.