



DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

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The Honorable Tommy Benton
Chairman, House Retirement Committee
State Capitol, Room 217
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification
Substitute to House Bill 663
(LC 43 1421S)

Dear Chairman Benton:

This substitute bill would amend provisions relating to membership under the Georgia Judicial Retirement System. Specifically, this bill would require all judges employed full-time in the statewide business court to become members of the Georgia Judicial Retirement System. Any person who was employed in such position prior to the effective date of this legislation would be entitled to creditable service provided he or she pays to the retirement system the total amount of employee contributions that would have been paid during such period. Additionally, any person who becomes a full-time statewide business court judge shall be eligible to receive creditable service for all service rendered as an employee while a member of the Employees' Retirement System. To receive such creditable service, the Employees' Retirement System will be required to transfer all funds paid by or on behalf of the member to the Georgia Judicial Retirement System. The member will be required to pay the remaining amount necessary to cover the full actuarial cost of the service.

This substitute bill specifies that such members would be subject to the provisions applicable to solicitors-general of the state courts, except as otherwise specifically provided within Chapter 23 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. This substitute bill also specifies that all other employees of the statewide business courts would become members of the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia.

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

Respectfully,

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

GSG/cs