



## Department of Audits and Accounts

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February 21, 2020

The Honorable Ellis Black  
Chairman, Senate Retirement Committee  
Coverdell Legislative Office Building, Room 303-B  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification  
Substitute to Senate Bill 249  
(LC 43 1471S)

Dear Chairman Black:

This substitute bill would amend several provisions relating to the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. First, this substitute bill would allow jail officers who are certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council and maintain such certification to become members of the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. Such members would be entitled to all benefits outlined in Chapter 17 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

This substitute bill would also increase the monthly contributions paid by members. Currently, members are required to pay contributions of \$20 per month. If this legislation is enacted, members would be required to pay contributions of \$25 per month effective July 1, 2020. However, on and after July 1, 2021, the monthly dues would be determined annually by the Board and would range from \$25 per month to \$50 per month, based on the actuarial soundness of the Fund.

Additionally, this substitute bill would increase the amount of fines and bond forfeitures collected from criminal and quasi-criminal cases for violation of state statutes, county ordinances, or municipal ordinances. If this legislation is enacted, a fee in an amount equal to the greater of \$10 or 10 percent of each bond forfeited or each fine imposed would be collected and paid to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Fund. The fee collected prior to the adjudication of guilt for purposes of pretrial diversion would also increase to the greater of five percent or \$5.00. These funds are also remitted to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Fund.

Finally, this substitute bill would increase the monthly retirement benefit payable to members. Current law specifies that retired members receive a monthly benefit of \$17.50 for each full year of creditable service. If this legislation is enacted, the monthly benefit would be increased to \$25.15 for each full year of creditable service beginning July 1, 2020. The retirement benefit would automatically increase to \$30 for each full year of creditable service on July 1, 2021.

This is to certify that this substitute bill is a reduction in cost amendment as defined in the Public Retirement Systems Standards Law. As actuarial investigation and State Auditor's Summary has been prepared for SB 249 (LC 43 1471S) and is attached.

Respectfully,

/s/ Greg S. Griffin  
Greg S. Griffin  
State Auditor

GSG/cs