



Department of Audits and Accounts

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The Honorable John Albers
State Senator
State Capitol, Room 421-C
Atlanta, GA 30334

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification
Senate Bill (LC 43 2834ER)

Dear Senator Albers:

This bill would amend several provisions within the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. Specifically, this bill would:

- Amend definitions to include a definition for 'full time employment' and to provide for a more concise definition of 'peace officer' without changing any of the eligibility requirements;
- Define the term of office for Board members;
- Change the title of Secretary-Treasurer to Executive Director and specify that the Board would set the compensation for the Executive Director;
- Update the duties of the Board;
- Revise provisions relating to the application for membership. Specifically, the employing agency would no longer be required to notify the Fund of each new hire. Instead, the employing agency would provide the new hire with an application and a certification of employment within 30 days of employment;
- Increase the minimum monthly dues to \$35 and the maximum monthly dues to \$70. Currently the minimum and maximum are \$25 and \$50 respectively;
- Clarify the process for delinquent payments and for the reinstatement of membership resulting from delinquencies;

- Change the requirements for remission of payments by the Georgia Composite Medical Board and the Board of Dentistry from monthly to annual;
- Increase the amount of creditable service that can be purchased from five years to seven years and specify that the member must pay full actuarial cost for the purchase of such service;
- Change the eligibility requirements for benefits to include vested members who have reached the age of 55 and remain actively employed;
- Specify that retired members may not rejoin as an active member;
- Update the spousal benefit calculator;
- Increase the disability payment from \$257 per month to \$455 per month;
- Increase the death benefit to \$5,000. Currently, the maximum death benefit is \$3,500;
- Increase the death benefit paid to beneficiaries of members who were injured in the line of duty and passed away as a result of such injuries within 12 months. Currently the maximum death benefit is \$5,500. If this legislation is enacted, the benefit would be increased to \$10,000; and
- Revise the provisions relating to the refund of membership dues. Persons seeking refunds would be entitled to receive a refund for 100 percent of all dues paid. Currently, they receive a refund equivalent to 95 percent of all dues paid.

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

Respectfully,

s/ GREG S. GRIFFIN

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

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