

House Bill 624 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Battles of the 15th, Powell of the 171st, Maxwell of the 17th, Burns of the 159th, Meadows of the 5th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 6 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Georgia Legislative Retirement System, so as to define certain terms; to change certain
3 provisions relating to employee contributions to the retirement system, payment of employee
4 contributions on behalf of the member, and additional contributions; to change certain
5 provisions relating to prior service credit for military service; to change certain provisions
6 relating to eligibility and application for a retirement allowance, early retirement, amount of
7 retirement allowance, compliance with federal tax laws, and increases in retirement
8 allowance; to provide for related matters; to provide conditions for an effective date and
9 automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Chapter 6 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia
13 Legislative Retirement System, is amended in Code Section 47-6-1, relating to definitions,
14 by adding two new paragraphs to read as follows:

15 "(1.1) 'Average monthly salary' means the average of the monthly salary of a member
16 during the 24 consecutive months of membership service producing the highest such
17 average."

18 "(7.1) 'Monthly salary' means the full rate of the total combined regular monthly salary,
19 not including any per diems, allowances, or expense reimbursements, payable to a
20 member pursuant to provisions of Code Section 45-7-4 that are applicable to such
21 member plus any additional regular monthly salary payable to the member pursuant to
22 resolution adopted by the House of Representatives or the Senate."

23 "(11) 'Term of office' means the period of time beginning when an individual receives
24 his or her commission as a member of the General Assembly from the Secretary of State,
25 which is issued in accordance with paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code
26 Section 21-2-502, until the second Monday in January of the next odd-numbered year."

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27

SECTION 2.

28 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 47-6-60, relating to employee contributions
 29 to the retirement system, payment of employee contributions on behalf of the member, and
 30 additional contributions, by revising subsections (a) and (f) as follows:

31 "(a) Each member shall contribute ~~7 1/2~~ 9 1/2 percent of his or her monthly salary. Such
 32 contributions shall be made through payroll deductions by the legislative fiscal officer."

33 "~~(f) In addition to the employee contributions required by subsections (a) and (d) of this~~
 34 ~~Code section, effective July 1, 1986, each member shall contribute 1 percent of the~~
 35 ~~member's monthly salary to the system. Such members shall have such additional amount~~
 36 ~~of employee contributions required by this subsection deducted by the legislative fiscal~~
 37 ~~officer from their monthly salary along with the other deduction from such salary made by~~
 38 ~~said legislative fiscal officer pursuant to subsections (a) and (d) of this Code section.~~
 39 Reserved."

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SECTION 3.

41 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 47-6-70.1, relating to prior service credit
 42 for military service, by revising paragraph (6) as follows:

43 "(6) The member must pay to the board of trustees the regular employee contribution of
 44 ~~7 1/2 percent of compensation provided by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-6-60~~ based
 45 on the ~~compensation~~ monthly salary received by members of the General Assembly
 46 ~~during legislative sessions~~ at the time the military service was rendered plus interest on
 47 such employee contributions at the rate of 7 percent per annum compounded annually
 48 from the time the military service was rendered until the date of payment."

49

SECTION 4.

50 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 47-6-80, relating to eligibility and
 51 application for a retirement allowance, early retirement, amount of retirement allowance,
 52 compliance with federal tax laws, and increases in retirement allowance, by revising
 53 subsections (a) and (d) as follows:

54 "(a) Upon the written application to the board, any member of the system who (1) has
 55 attained age 65 and has completed eight or more years of creditable service or (2) has
 56 attained age 62 and has completed eight or more years of membership service shall be
 57 retired by the board on a retirement allowance and shall thereupon become a beneficiary
 58 of the system, provided that he or she is no longer in the service of the state, whether as a
 59 member of the General Assembly or otherwise. In lieu of eight years of service, a member
 60 may substitute four terms of office in the General Assembly."

61 "(d) Upon such retirement under subsection (a) of this Code section, the retired member
 62 shall receive a monthly service retirement allowance which shall be equal to ~~\$28.00~~ \$50.00
 63 multiplied by the number of years of the member's creditable service."

64 **SECTION 5.**

65 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 47-6-80, relating to eligibility and
 66 application for a retirement allowance, early retirement, amount of retirement allowance,
 67 compliance with federal tax laws, and increases in retirement allowance, by redesignating
 68 existing subsection (d.1) as subsection (d.2) and adding a new subsection (d.1) to read as
 69 follows:

70 "(d.1) For any person who was a contributing member on July 1, 2018, or who first became
 71 a contributing member after July 1, 2018, upon retirement under subsection (a) of this Code
 72 section such member shall receive a monthly service retirement allowance equal to the
 73 greater of:

74 (1) Thirty-eight percent of the member's average monthly salary; or

75 (2) The monthly service retirement allowance provided by subsection (d) of this Code
 76 section;

77 provided, however, that if a person who was a contributing member on July 1, 2018, does
 78 not remain a contributing member until at least December 31, 2018, then his or her monthly
 79 service retirement allowance upon retirement shall be as provided by subsection (d) of this
 80 Code section."

81 **SECTION 6.**

82 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2018, only if it is determined to have been
 83 concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia
 84 Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not
 85 become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2018, as
 86 required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

87 **SECTION 7.**

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