

Senate Bill 251

By: Senators Seay of the 34th, Sims of the 12th, Butler of the 55th, Cowser of the 46th,  
Mullis of the 53rd 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 three 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."

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."

40 **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, 2022, or who first became  
71 a contributing member after July 1, 2022, 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, 2022, does  
78 not remain a contributing member until at least December 31, 2022, 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, 2022, 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, 2022, 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.