



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Barry Fleming
State Representative
Coverdell Legislative Office Building, Room 601-F
Atlanta, GA 30334

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification
House Bill (LC 43 2849)

Dear Representative Fleming:

This bill would amend provisions relating to benefits payable to retired members of the Georgia Judicial Retirement System. Currently, retirement benefits paid to retired members of the Georgia Judicial Retirement System are calculated based on the state salary outlined in statute for the respective position. Retirement benefits are not paid based on any county supplements they may have received while an active member of the System. Current law authorizes, but does not require, counties to provide supplemental retirement benefits for retired judges and district attorneys that served their area and received a county supplement while employed.

This bill would require certain judicial circuits to pay a supplemental benefit to superior court judges and district attorneys who retired from such circuit, as well as to the beneficiaries of any deceased superior court judges and district attorneys that served the area. This would only apply to single county judicial circuits in which the county site is located in an unincorporated area of the county and the county governing authority has constructed one or more permanent satellite courthouses within the county.

Any judicial circuit that is subject to these provisions would pay a supplemental benefit that is calculated based on the benefit percentage the retired member earned at retirement from the Judicial Retirement System together with the aggregate county salary supplement being paid to active judges as of the date of the member's retirement from active service.

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

Respectfully,

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

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