



DOAA
Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

February 10, 2025

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

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification
Senate Bill (LC 56 0297)

Dear Senator Albers:

This bill would amend provisions relating to retirement allowances under the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund. If this bill is enacted, members would become eligible for the maximum retirement allowance at the point the sum of their age and years of service equals 80. Currently, members become eligible for the maximum retirement allowance once they reach 55 years of age and have earned 25 years of service. Furthermore, this bill would allow members to retire under this provision and continue to work as a firefighter. Such members would not be required to make member contributions, and these members would not earn any additional creditable service. Under the provisions of this bill, members who have earned 15 years of creditable service and terminate their service would become eligible for a retirement allowance once they reach 55 years of age.

This bill would also amend provisions relating to the Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law. Specifically, this bill would authorize the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund to invest up to 10 percent of the total assets of the Fund in forms of assets rated below investment grade by nationally recognized rating agencies. Currently, there are no retirement systems subject to the provisions of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated that are authorized to make such investments.

This bill would also authorize the Fund to invest up to 20 percent of the Fund's assets in alternative investments. Currently, the Fund is only authorized to invest up to 15 percent of its assets in alternative investments.

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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S.B. 143