



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Nan Orrock
State Senator
State Capitol, Room 420-B
Atlanta, GA 30334

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification
Senate Bill (LC 56 0371)

Dear Senator Orrock:

This bill would amend provisions relating to retirement allowances under the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia. Currently, only members hired prior to July 1, 2009 may receive postretirement benefit adjustments, when approved by the board of trustees. This bill would make all members of the System eligible for any postretirement benefit adjustments granted on or after July 1, 2026.

This bill would also add automatic increases of postretirement benefit adjustments for all retired members once every six months in the amount of 1.5 percent. Currently, the law authorizes the board of trustees to establish a method of providing postretirement benefit adjustments but does not dictate the frequency at which they are made. Additionally, this legislation would allow the Governor to suspend or reduce an automatic increase by executive order. The Governor could only issue a suspension if the revenue collected in the most recently completed fiscal year decreased by three percent or more below the revenue estimate, or if the state experiences a revenue decline for three consecutive months during the current fiscal year. Even then, the Governor may not suspend the automatic increases for more than two consecutive calendar years or three times in a period of ten years. The legislation allows the General Assembly to revoke, revise, or extend the Governor's suspension executive order by adoption of a joint resolution.

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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