



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Rick Williams, Chairman
Senate Retirement Committee
Coverdell Legislative Office Building, Room 327-B
Atlanta, GA 30334

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification
Substitute to Senate Bill 209 (LC 56 0619S)

Dear Chairman Williams:

This substitute bill would amend provisions relating to membership in the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia (TRS). Specifically, this bill would authorize certain persons who would otherwise be members of the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) to make an irrevocable election to become members of the TRS, provided the employer first makes an irrevocable election to grant such option to their affected employees. If such election is made, only persons who work not less than half time would become eligible to join the TRS. Once such election is made, the member would be covered under the same provisions and contribution requirements as other members of the TRS.

Under the provisions of this substitute bill, persons who make this election may not receive creditable service in the TRS for time worked as a member of the PSERS. Vested persons who transfer into the TRS may elect to keep their accumulated contributions with the PSERS and receive their earned pension upon reaching normal retirement age. Vested members who elect to withdraw their accumulated contributions would forfeit any right to a future benefit. Nonvested members who transfer into the TRS would be required to withdraw their accumulated contributions.

This is to certify that this substitute bill is a reduction in cost amendment as defined in the Public Retirement Systems Standards Law. An Actuarial Investigation and State Auditor's Summary for the Substitute to Senate Bill 209 (LC 56 0619S) is attached.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg S. Griffin".

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

GSG/cs