

Senate Bill 157

By: Senators Williams of the 25th, Burns of the 23rd, Harbin of the 16th, Walker III of the 20th and Strickland of the 42nd

**AS PASSED SENATE**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 47-6-40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 qualifications for membership, irrevocable election for certain members of General  
3 Assembly, membership of persons who cease to become members before age 60, termination  
4 of membership, and application for additional creditable service, so as to provide for certain  
5 members or former members of the General Assembly to buy into the Georgia Legislative  
6 Retirement System; to provide for creditable service and the payment of the full actuarial  
7 value of such; to provide for procedures; to provide for notice to members and former  
8 members of the opportunity to buy into the system; to provide conditions for an effective  
9 date and automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
10 other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 Code Section 47-6-40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to qualifications  
14 for membership, irrevocable election for certain members of General Assembly, membership  
15 of persons who cease to become members before age 60, termination of membership, and

S. B. 157

- 1 -

16 application for additional creditable service, is amended by redesignating subsection (e) as  
17 subsection (f) and adding a new subsection (e) to read as follows:

18 "(e)(1) A member or former member of the General Assembly may make an irrevocable  
19 election to become a member of this retirement system and may obtain creditable service  
20 for prior service as a member of the General Assembly as provided in this Code section.

21 In order to obtain such additional creditable service, the member or former member must:

22 (A) Have served, at the time of the application, at least four years or two full terms as  
23 a member of the General Assembly;

24 (B) Have never been a member of the Georgia Legislative Retirement System;

25 (C) Submit an application to the board of trustees in such manner as the board deems  
26 appropriate; and

27 (D) Pay to the board of trustees an amount determined by the board of trustees to be  
28 sufficient to cover the full actuarial cost of granting the creditable service as provided  
29 in this Code section. Such payment shall be made in conjunction with the member's  
30 application for membership;

31 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, no creditable service shall be  
32 granted or obtained pursuant to this subsection if such service may be used to calculate  
33 creditable service under any other public retirement system created by this title.

34 (3) By September 1, 2026, the Employees' Retirement System shall send a onetime  
35 notice to all members or former members of the General Assembly who meet the above  
36 criteria. Such notice shall:

37 (A) Be in writing;

38 (B) Be sent via United States mail to the member's last known mailing address;

39 (C) Advise the member that he or she is eligible to retroactively become a member of  
40 the Georgia Legislative Retirement System for past years or past terms served; and

41 (D) Communicate the exact amount required to be paid pursuant to subparagraph (D)  
42 of paragraph (1) of this subsection, in order for a member or former member to receive  
43 creditable service in the Georgia Legislative Retirement System.

44 (4) Any member of the General Assembly who obtains creditable service for prior  
45 service as a member of the General Assembly pursuant to paragraph (1) of this  
46 subsection, whose service concluded before January 1, 2022, shall receive the monthly  
47 pension amount provided in subsection (d) of Code Section 47-6-80.

48 (5) Any member of the General Assembly who obtains creditable service for prior  
49 service as a member of the General Assembly pursuant to paragraph (1) of this  
50 subsection, whose service concluded on or after January 1, 2022, shall receive the  
51 monthly pension amount provided in subsection (c.1) of Code Section 47-6-80."

52 **SECTION 2.**

53 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026, only if it is determined to have been  
54 concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia  
55 Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not  
56 become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2026, as  
57 required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

58 **SECTION 3.**

59 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.