



DOAA
Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Shaw Blackmon
Chairman, House Ways & Means Committee
State Capitol, Room 133
Atlanta, GA 30334

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification
Substitute to Senate Bill 285 (LC 56 0678S)

Dear Chairman Blackmon:

This substitute bill would amend provisions relating to revenue collected for the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund (Fund). Currently, the primary sources of revenue for the Fund are derived from fines and fees collected on delinquent bonds of criminal and quasi-criminal cases and from a portion of 9-1-1 charges. If this legislation is enacted, the Fund would also receive revenue through county and municipal taxes imposed on insurance companies and through state insurance taxes collected.

Section 8 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated authorizes counties and municipal corporations to impose taxes on insurance companies. These funds are collected by the local government and subsequently remitted to the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance. The funds are then allocated and redistributed back to the local governments. If this legislation is enacted, each county and municipal corporation would be required to remit 1.5 percent of all funds distributed to them by the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance to the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. Such distribution must be made on or before October 30 of each year. Under the provisions of this bill, all revenue received from counties and municipal corporations pursuant to this bill shall be used for the sole purpose of supporting the benefits paid to members of the Fund, and such funds shall not lapse.

Section 8 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated also authorizes the state to collect taxes from insurance companies at a rate of 2 1/4 percent upon the gross direct premiums they receive. This substitute bill would provide that 1/2 of one percent of such premiums collected would be appropriated to the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. It should be noted that this provision would be subject to the annual appropriation process.

Finally, this substitute bill would amend provisions relating to the authority of the Board of Trustees of the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund to provide for an increase in the benefit multiplier used to calculate retirement allowances. Currently, the benefit multiplier is \$30 per month for each year of creditable service, up to a maximum retirement allowance of \$900 per month. If this substitute bill is enacted, the Board would have the authority to increase the benefit multiplier up to \$35 per month for

each year of creditable service provided such decision would not cause the funded ratio of the Fund to fall below 90 percent, based on the recommendation of the actuary. The Board would be authorized to make improvements in the benefit multiplier in increments of no less than \$1.00. As written, the Board would not have the authority to approve any increases before July 1, 2027.

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

Respectfully,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

GSG/cs