



DOAA
Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Burt Jones
Lieutenant Governor
State Capitol, Room 240
Atlanta, GA 30334

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification
Amendment to House Bill 1020 (AM 56 0058)

Dear Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones:

This bill would amend provisions relating to creditable service and retirement allowances under the Georgia Judicial Retirement System (JRS). Under current provisions, persons who became members of the JRS before July 1, 2025 are eligible to receive their full retirement allowance once they have reached 60 years of age and have earned 16 years of creditable service. Persons who became a member on or after that date may still retire at age 60. However, any service credit earned as a superior court judge will be excluded from the service credit calculation used to determine the member's retirement allowance. Once the member reaches age 65, the retirement allowance will be recalculated to include their service credit as a superior court judge. House Bill 1020 provides for an additional exclusion to service credit calculations for persons who become a member of the JRS on or after July 1, 2026. If this bill is enacted, service credit earned as a district would be excluded from the service credit calculation until the member has attained the age of 65. Once such person reaches the age of 65, their service credit will be recalculated and their retirement allowance adjusted to include such creditable service. These provisions were included in the substitute to House Bill 1020 (LC 56 0664S)

Furthermore, this bill would amend provisions in Titles 15 and 45 of the Official Code of Georgia relating to the compensation paid to district attorneys. Under the provisions of this bill, persons holding the position of district attorney on July 1, 2026 would have the option to receive an annual salary as provided by O.C.G.A. §45-7-4 and locality pay in accordance with the maximum limits allowed by this bill or to continue receiving pay in accordance with the laws in effect on June 30, 2026. Effective July 1, 2026, the annual salary of a district attorney shall be set by the General Assembly, provided the salary shall not exceed 88 percent of the 'base salary.' The 'base salary' is defined as the annual salary fixed for the judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia on July 1 of the second preceding state fiscal year. Under the provisions on this bill, current district attorneys would be required to exercise this option by January 1, 2030, and such

election is irrevocable. All persons hired into the position of district attorney on or after July 1, 2026 would receive compensation in accordance with the new provisions. These provisions were included in the substitute to House Bill 1020 (LC 56 0664S).

Amendment (AM 56 0058) adds language to House Bill 1020 (LC 56 0664S) to revise the minimum compensation authorized for each assistant district attorney. The new ranges would be as follows:

- Assistant District Attorney I – Not less than \$78,000 nor more than 65 percent of the compensation of the district attorney;
- Assistant District Attorney II – Not less than \$93,082 nor more than 70 percent of the compensation of the district attorney;
- Assistant District Attorney III - Not less than \$111,562 nor more than 80 percent of the compensation of the district attorney;
- Assistant District Attorney IV – Not less than \$134,291.

This is to certify that this amendment is a nonfiscal amendment as defined in the Public Retirement System Standards Law.

Respectfully,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

GSG/cs