

Legislative Update

For the Week of: February 3 - 7, 2020
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Legislative Log

Monday, February 3, 2020

No retirement bills were considered.

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

HB 663 – Georgia Judicial Retirement System; membership for certain persons employed in certain full time positions requiring admission to the State Bar of Georgia as a condition of employment; require

Beginning 7/1/2020, this bill specifies that individuals employed full-time as a judge in new Georgia Business Court are eligible for Judicial Retirement System (JRS) membership, while other Georgia Business Court employees are eligible for Employees' Retirement System (ERS) membership.

HB 663 received a DO PASS from the House Rules Committee was placed on the House debate calendar for 2/5/2020.

HB 664 – Georgia Judicial Retirement System; membership for certain persons employed in certain full time positions requiring admission to the State Bar of Georgia as a condition of employment; require

This legislation requires new members of Legislative Counsel to elect membership in the Judicial Retirement System (JRS) and allows current members to opt into JRS or remain in Employees' Retirement System (ERS) beginning 7/1/2020.

HB 664 received a DO PASS by Committee Substitute from the House Retirement Committee.

Legislative Log (continued)

HB 659 – Retirement and pensions; age of eligibility for retirement benefits for appellate court judges; decrease

Effective 7/1/2020, this bill changes the normal retirement age for Appellate Court Judges from age 65 to 60 and allows a surviving spouse to receive benefit without regard to whether such judge reached age 60.

HB 659 received a DO PASS from the House Retirement Committee.

HB 821 – Retirement and pensions; granting post-retirement benefit adjustments to certain individuals; provisions

This bill would allow all members of the Employees' Retirement System (ERS), the Judicial Retirement System (JRS), and the Legislative Retirement System (LRS) to be eligible to receive any post-retirement benefit adjustments granted on or after 7/1/2020 by their respective Boards, while still maintaining that no members with membership dates on and after 7/1/2009 receive any post-retirement adjustments that were granted before 7/1/2020.

HB 821 was received a DO PASS from the House Retirement Committee.

SB 26 – Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; prior service as a member of Georgia Defined Contribution Plan; creditable service; provide

Effective 7/1/2020, Employees' Retirement System (ERS) members with at least five years of service who were members of the Georgia Defined Contribution Plan (GDGP) immediately prior to becoming members of ERS may obtain credit for all such prior GDGP service. Members must pay full actuarial cost for the service and will have the ability to pay for such service with a payment plan option.

SB 26 received a DO PASS from the Senate Rules Committee and was placed on the Senate debate calendar for 2/5/2020.

SB 47 – Retirement Benefits; creditable service for certain military service; provide

Beginning 7/1/2020, the legislation allows an Employees' Retirement System (ERS) member with at least two years of service to purchase up to three years of creditable service for military service performed on or after 1/1/1990. Members must pay full actuarial cost for such service and will have the ability to pay for such with a payment plan.

SB 47 received a DO PASS from the Senate Rules Committee and was placed on the Senate debate calendar for 2/5/2020.

SB 262 – Employees’ Retirement System of Georgia; eligibility of beneficiary to make new retirement election; provide

Effective for all retirement allowances due on or after January 1, 2021, this bill allows Employees’ Retirement System (ERS) retirees who have selected Options 2, 3, or 4 and whose designated individual(s) set to receive a lifetime retirement allowance predeceases them to either reelect their original Option with a new individual(s) or begin receiving the maximum plan benefit. A few conditions must be met in order to be eligible:

- If multiple beneficiaries are named for benefit, all must predecease the member in order to reelect Option or receive max plan benefit;
- Reelection of Option with new individual(s) must take place within one year of death of original beneficiary(ies); and
- (Only Option 4) If reelecting Option, must select the same variant of Option 4 originally chosen.

This bill also removes the ability for retirees to select Option 5 on or after January 1, 2021, as it is redundant and no longer necessary with the changes to the other Options.

SB 262 received a DO PASS by the Senate Rules Committee and was placed on the Senate debate calendar for 2/5/2020.

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

HB 663 – Georgia Judicial Retirement System; membership for certain persons employed in certain full time positions requiring admission to the State Bar of Georgia as a condition of employment; require

Beginning 7/1/2020, this bill specifies that individuals employed full-time as a judge in new Georgia Business Court are eligible for Judicial Retirement System (JRS) membership, while other Georgia Business Court employees are eligible for Employees’ Retirement System (ERS) membership.

HB 663 received a DO PASS from the full House by a vote of 164 - 7.

SB 26 – Employees’ Retirement System of Georgia; prior service as a member of Georgia Defined Contribution Plan; creditable service; provide

Effective 7/1/2020, Employees’ Retirement System (ERS) members with at least five years of service who were members of the Georgia Defined Contribution Plan (GDGP) immediately prior to becoming members of ERS may obtain credit for all such prior GDGP service. Members must pay full actuarial cost for the service and will have the ability to pay for such service with a payment plan option.

SB 26 received a DO PASS from the full Senate by a vote of 51 - 0.

SB 47 – Retirement Benefits; creditable service for certain military service; provide

Beginning 7/1/2020, the legislation allows an Employees' Retirement System (ERS) member with at least two years of service to purchase up to three years of creditable service for military service performed on or after 1/1/1990. Members must pay full actuarial cost for such service and will have the ability to pay for such with a payment plan.

SB 47 received a DO PASS from the full Senate by a vote of 51 - 0.

SB 262 – Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; eligibility of beneficiary to make new retirement election; provide

Effective for all retirement allowances due on or after January 1, 2021, this bill allows Employees' Retirement System (ERS) retirees who have selected Options 2, 3, or 4 and whose designated individual(s) set to receive a lifetime retirement allowance predeceases them to either reelect their original Option with a new individual(s) or begin receiving the maximum plan benefit. A few conditions must be met in order to be eligible:

- If multiple beneficiaries are named for benefit, all must predecease the member in order to reelect Option or receive max plan benefit;
- Reelection of Option with new individual(s) must take place within one year of death of original beneficiary(ies); and
- (Only Option 4) If reelecting Option, must select the same variant of Option 4 originally chosen.

This bill also removes the ability for retirees to select Option 5 on or after January 1, 2021, as it is redundant and no longer necessary with the changes to the other Options.

SB 262 received a DO PASS from the full Senate by a vote of 52 - 0.

Thursday, February 6 - Friday, February 7, 2020

No retirement bills were considered.

Legislative Adjournment Schedule Announced through March 12th

February 6 - 17	Recess
February 18	Legislative Day 13
February 19	Legislative Day 14
February 20	Legislative Day 15
February 21	Legislative Day 16
February 22 - 23	Recess
February 24	Legislative Day 17
February 25	Legislative Day 18
February 26	Legislative Day 19
February 27	Legislative Day 20
February 28	Legislative Day 21
February 29 - March 1	Recess
March 2	Legislative Day 22
March 3	Legislative Day 23
March 4	Legislative Day 24
March 5	Legislative Day 25
March 6 - 8	Recess
March 9	Legislative Day 26
March 10	Legislative Day 27
March 11	Recess
March 12	Legislative Day 28 (Crossover Day)
