

## Weekly Legislative Update

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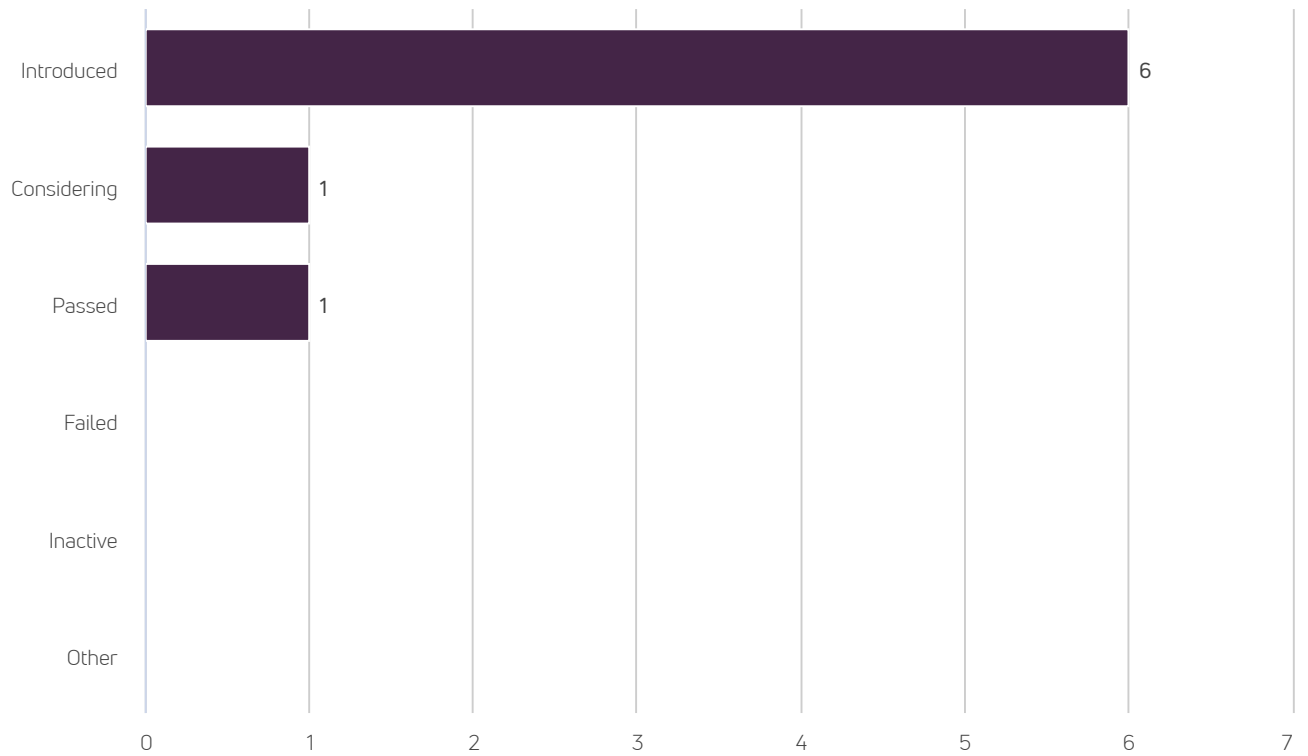
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### Bills by Status

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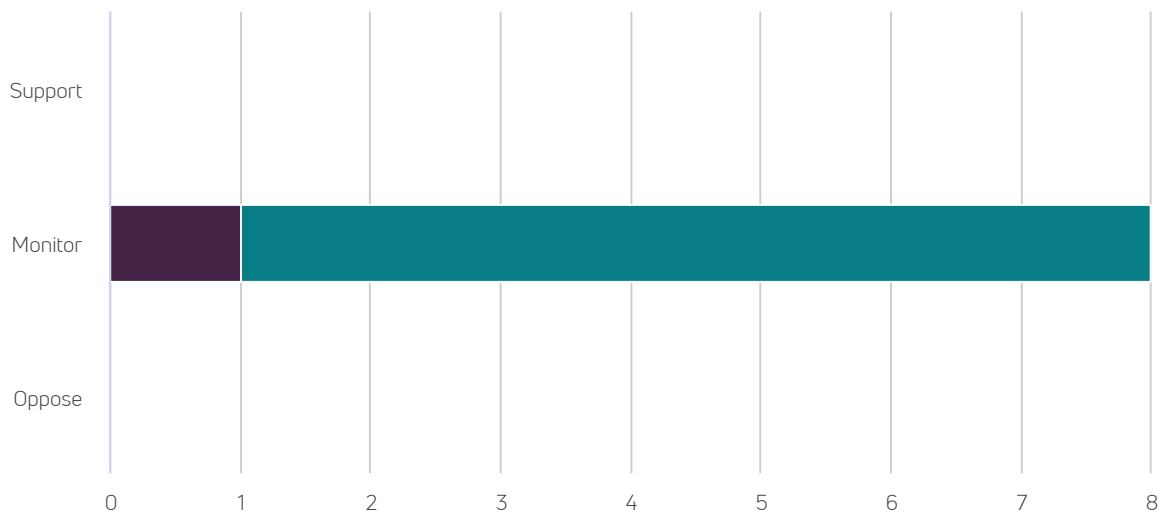


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### Bills by Priority & Position

High Medium Low

#### Bills



Highchar

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## GA HB 67

High Priority

 Monitor

**Title:** Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

**Current Status:** In Senate

**Introduction Date:** 2025-01-16

**Last Action Date:** Senate Read and Referred. 2025-02-06

**Summary:** The Governor's recommendation in the Amended FY 2025 Budget includes \$26,750,000 supplemental appropriations to support one-time benefit adjustments for eligible ERS retirees as authorized by the Board of Trustees. If enacted, the Board will evaluate various calculations to most efficiently and fairly allocate the funds. This is expected to be presented to the full Board in April, with an anticipated payment to eligible ERS retirees in June 2025. The Governor's recommendation in the Amended FY 2025 Budget also includes \$500 million in funds to ERS to strategically invest in increasing the plans funded ratio in order to improve the long-term financial viability of the system. The House recommendation in the Amended FY 2025 Budget includes \$26,750,000 supplemental appropriations to support one-time benefit adjustments for eligible ERS retirees as authorized by the Board of Trustees. If enacted, the Board will evaluate various calculations to most efficiently and fairly allocate the funds. This is expected to be presented to the full Board in April, with an anticipated payment to eligible ERS retirees in June 2025. The House recommendation in the Amended FY 2025 Budget also includes \$500 million in funds to ERS to strategically invest in increasing the plans funded ratio in order to improve the long-term financial viability of the system. \*\*\*Bill was assigned to the House Appropriations Committee on 1/17/2025. Bill passed by Committee Substitute from the House Appropriations Committee on 2/5/2025. Bill passed the House Rules Committee on 2/5/2025 and is scheduled to be voted on by the full House on 2/6/2025. Bill passed the House by a vote of 166 Yeas to 3 Nays and was immediately transmitted to the Senate 2/6/2025.\*\*\*

**Description:** A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act making and providing appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, known as the "General Appropriations Act," Act No. 709, approved May 7, 2024, so as to make, provide, and change certain appropriations for the operation of the state government and its departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, and other agencies, for the university system, common schools, counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions, for all other governmental activities, projects, and undertakings authorized by law, and for all leases, contracts, agreements, and grants authorized by law; to provide for the control and administration of funds; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**Location:** US-GA

 Title 47

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## GA SB 23

High Priority

 Monitor

**Title:** Retirement; total percentage of funds that the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia may invest in alternative investments; raise the limit

**Current Status:** In Senate

**Introduction Date:** 2025-01-17

**Last Action Date:** Senate Read Second Time. 2025-02-06

**Summary:** This bill would amend provisions relating to the Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law. Current law authorizes most eligible large retirement systems to invest up to 10 percent of their assets in alternative investments. However, the Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System are limited to a five percent investment in alternative investments. If this legislation is enacted, the limitation currently placed on the Employees' Retirement System would be removed and the System would be authorized to invest up to 10 percent of their assets in alternative investments. Such provisions would become effective July 1, 2025. \*\*\*Assigned to Senate Retirement Committee 2/3/25. Bill received a Do Pass recommendation from Senate Retirement Committee 2/5/2025. Bill received a Do Pass recommendation from the Senate Rules Committee on 2/6/2025 and will be debated by the full Senate on 2/10/2025. \*\*\*

**Description:** A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 7 of Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law," so as to raise the limit for the total percentage of funds that the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia may invest in alternative investments; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**Location:** US-GA

 Title 47

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## GA SR 71

High Priority

 Monitor

**Title:** Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; congratulate

**Current Status:** Enacted

**Introduction Date:** 2025-01-30

**Last Action Date:** Senate Read and Adopted. 2025-02-03

**Description:** A RESOLUTION congratulating the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia upon its 75th anniversary; and for other purposes.

**Location:** US-GA

 Title 47

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## GA HB 68

High Priority

 Monitor

**Title:** General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

**Current Status:** In House

**Introduction Date:** 2025-01-16

**Last Action Date:** House Second Readers. 2025-01-27

**Summary:** The Governor's recommendation in the FY 2026 Budget includes \$26,750,000 in appropriations to support one-time benefit adjustments for eligible ERS retirees as authorized by the Board of Trustees. If enacted, the Board will evaluate various calculations to most

efficiently and fairly allocate the funds. \*\*\*Bill was assigned to the House Appropriations Committee on 1/17/2025.\*\*\*

**Description:** A BILL to be entitled an Act to make and provide appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026; to make and provide such appropriations for the operation of the state government and its departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, and other agencies, for the university system, common schools, counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions, for all other governmental activities, projects, and undertakings authorized by law, and for all leases, contracts, agreements, and grants authorized by law; to provide for the control and administration of funds; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**Location:** US-GA

 Title 47

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## GA HB 78

High Priority

 Monitor

**Title:** Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; total percentage of funds invested in alternative investments; raise limit

**Current Status:** In House

**Introduction Date:** 2025-01-16

**Last Action Date:** House Second Readers. 2025-01-27

**Summary:** This bill would amend provisions relating to the Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law. Current law authorizes most eligible large retirement systems to invest up to 10 percent of their assets in alternative investments. However, the Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System are limited to a five percent investment in alternative investments. If this legislation is enacted, the limitation currently placed on the Employees' Retirement System would be removed and the System would be authorized to invest up to 10 percent of their assets in alternative investments. Such provisions would become effective July 1, 2025. \*\*\*Bill was assigned to the House Retirement Committee on 1/17/2025.\*\*\*

**Description:** A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 7 of Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law," so as to raise the limit for the total percentage of funds that the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia may invest in alternative investments; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**Location:** US-GA

 Title 47

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## GA HB 85

High Priority

 Monitor

**Title:** Superior Court Judicial Compensation Reform Act; enact

**Current Status:** In House

**Introduction Date:** 2025-01-16

**Last Action Date:** House Second Readers. 2025-01-27

**Summary:** This bill changes the way salary and locality pay is calculated for retirement benefit calculation purposes for Superior Court Judges, which will simultaneously affect retirement benefit calculations for State Court Judges, Solicitors-General of State Courts, and Juvenile Court Judges (as such amounts may not exceed those of Superior Court Judges under O.C.G.A. § 47-23-100). The annual salary of each Superior Court Judge shall be set by the General Assembly in the General Appropriations Act, provided that such salary shall not exceed 90 percent of 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. In the event that the state annual salary to a Superior Court Judge exceeds \$201,060.00, the maximum allowable amount of annual locality pay provided to a judge by the county or counties comprising a judicial circuit shall be capped at \$20,106.00, and such cap shall be reduced in an amount equal to half of the percentage amount of such state annual salary increase above \$201,060.00. Superior Court Judges will have the ability to choose between the defined base salary or choose to receive annual locality pay provided by their Judicial Circuit, which shall not exceed 10 percent of the state annual salary to such judge. All such locality pay shall be in lieu of and not in addition to any county salary supplements previously provided by the county or counties. All judges within a judicial circuit who are in office as of July 1, 2025, and elect to exercise the option, or who take office after July 1, 2025, shall receive equal locality pay from any given county within such circuit that has opted to provide such pay. Failure to exercise this choice will result in such judge receiving default compensation. The option exercised will go into effect the next pay period at least five business days following the exercise of such option. The bill also suspends local supplements provided for by local laws on or after July 1, 2025 but does not prevent local salary supplements otherwise authorized by law on June 30, 2025. Such provisions would become effective July 1, 2025. \*\*\*Assigned to House Judiciary Committee 1/17/25.\*\*\*

**Description:** A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 15 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions concerning superior courts, so as to modify provisions regarding the compensation received by superior court judges; to amend Code Section 45-7-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to annual salaries of certain state officials and cost-of-living adjustments, so as to revise provisions relating to calculating and setting the salaries of superior court judges; to provide a definition; to amend Chapter 3 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to laws and statutes, so as to suspend the operation of local laws or local ordinances or resolutions that use a superior court judge's salary for the calculation of the salary or compensation of other officers, officials, or employees; to provide a short title; to provide for an effective date; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**Location:** US-GA

 Title 47

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**GA SB 11**

**High Priority**

 **Monitor**

**Title:** Retirement; creditable service for certain military service; provide

**Current Status:** In Senate

**Introduction Date:** 2025-01-15

**Last Action Date:** Senate Read and Referred. 2025-01-16

**Summary:** This bill allows ERS members with at least ten years of membership service to obtain up to 36 months of creditable service, awarded month for month, for active military service in the U.S. armed forces performed on or after January 1, 1990. In order to obtain such credit, the member shall: (1) Apply in a method or manner prescribed by the ERS Board of Trustees "Board"; (2) Submit proof of qualifying active military service as deemed necessary by the Board; and (3) Pay to the Board the amount that the Board determines to be the full actuarial cost equal to such eligible creditable service. Members are eligible to make a one-time payment of the full amount within 90 days, or may choose to participate in a payment plan like that established in O.C.G.A. § 47-2-101. Members shall not receive such creditable service: • If such member was not honorably discharged; • For reserve duty; • For any period of time for which he or she obtained ERS membership service; or • For any portion of such member's active military service in the U.S. armed forces that has been or will be used in the determination of eligibility for retirement benefits or allowances from any other state or federal retirement program, excluding social security. Similar fiscal bills from previous sessions include: SB 149 (2015-16), with a \$3,120,000 first year cost; SB 150 (2015-16); SB 10 (2017-18); SB 129 (2017-18), with \$0 cost since full actuarial cost; and SB 47 (2019-20), with \$0 cost since full actuarial cost, SB 85 (2023-2024), with \$0 cost since full actuarial cost. \*\*\*Assigned to Senate Retirement Committee 1/16/25. Bill was forwarded for Actuarial Study by the Senate Retirement Committee 2/5/2025 and will be eligible for passage in the 2026 Session. \*\*\*

**Description:** A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 5 of Chapter 2 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to service creditable toward retirement benefits, so as to provide for creditable service for certain military service; to provide for application and payment; to provide for related matters; to provide conditions for an effective date and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**Location:** US-GA

 Title 47

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## GA HB 37

Medium Priority

 Monitor

**Title:** Education; require local school systems to notify employees regarding social security withholdings and eligibility for certain benefits

**Current Status:** In House

**Introduction Date:** 2025-01-14


**Last Action Date:** House Second Readers. 2025-01-16

**Summary:** This would require all local school systems to provide specified notices to employees regarding social security withholdings and eligibility for inclusion in certain benefits, pension, or retirement plans throughout their time of employment. \*\*\*Bill was assigned to the House Education Committee on 1/15/25.\*\*\*

**Description:** A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Subpart 2 of Part 6 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to conditions of employment in elementary and secondary education, so as to require local school systems to provide notice to

employees regarding social security withholdings and eligibility for inclusion in certain benefits, pension, or retirement plans; to provide for an effective date; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**Location:** US-GA

 Agency Issues/Aw...