

Weekly Legislative Update

Contact Us

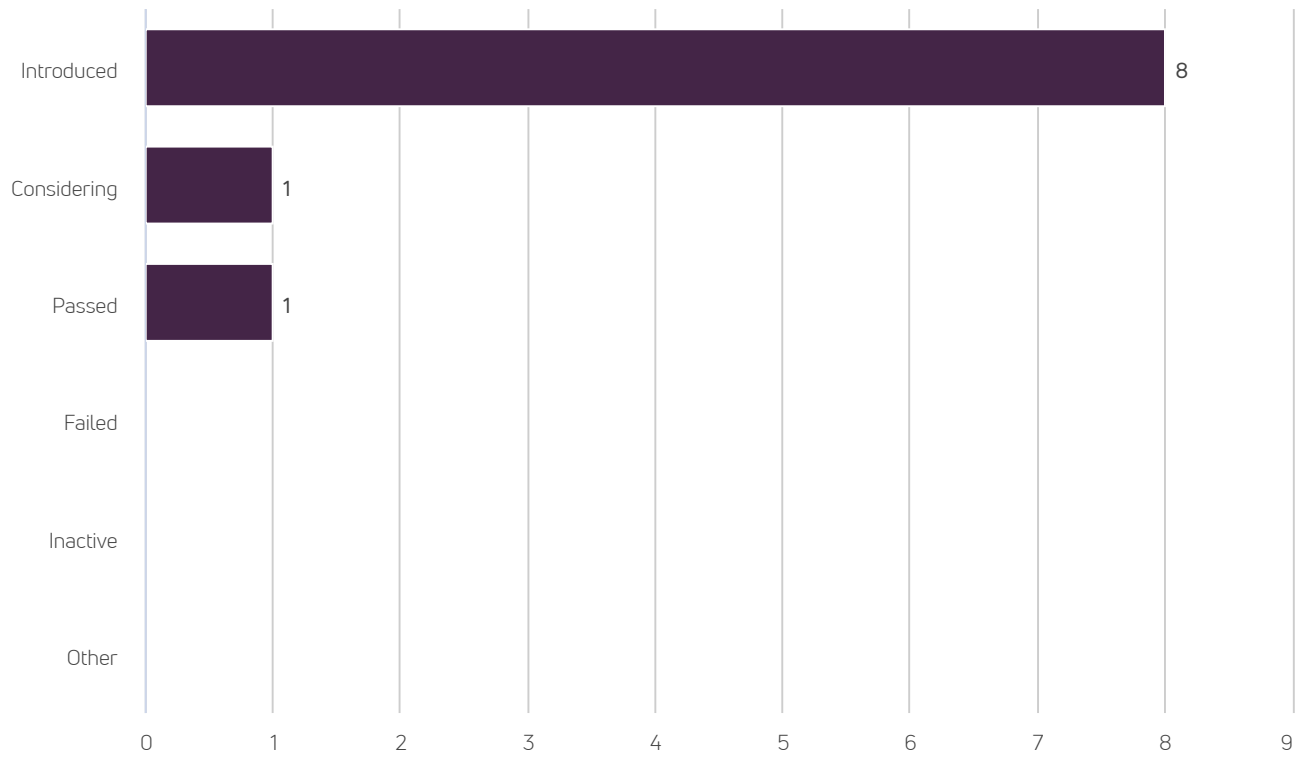
Jim Potvin
Executive Director, ERSGA
404-603-5602
jim.potvin@ers.ga.gov

Kelly L. Moody
Director, Legislative Affairs Division, ERSGA
404-603-5646
kelly.moody@ers.ga.gov

Georgiana Pennell
Legal and Policy Research Analyst, ERSGA
404-603-5616
georgiana.pennell@ers.ga.gov

Bills by Status

■ Bills by Status

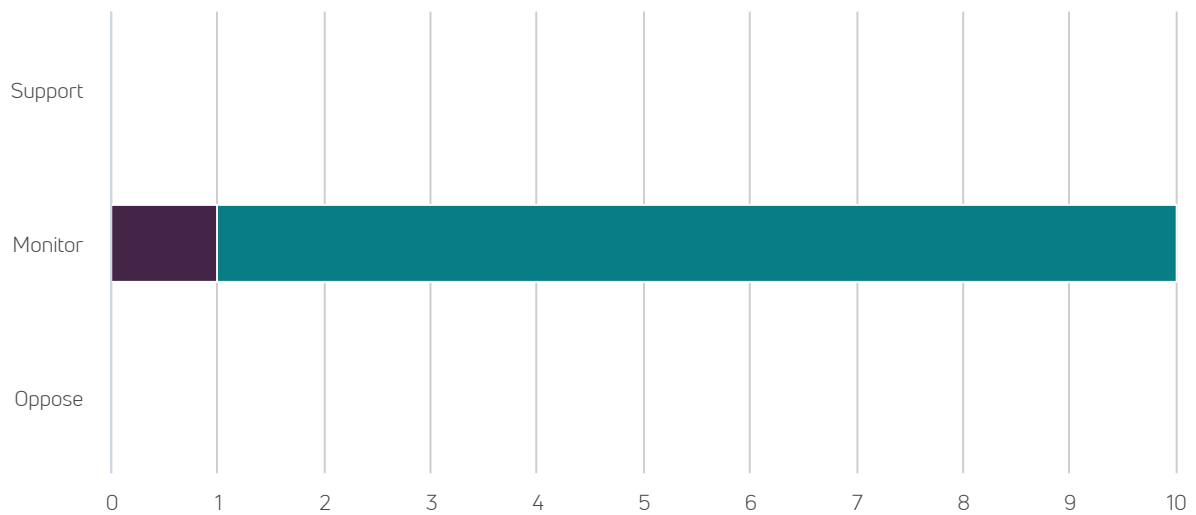


Highcharts.com

Bills by Priority & Position

■ High ■ Medium ■ Low

Bills



Highchar

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

GA HB 337

High Priority

 Monitor

Title: State Law Enforcement Officer Plan' or 'SLEO Plan'; enact

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-02-06

Last Action Date: House Hopper. 2025-02-06

Summary: This bill establishes the State Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) Plan under the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia (ERS). It provides for "State law enforcement officers" to make an irrevocable election to participate into the SLEO Plan instead of any other retirement system, plan, or program established under ERS. The term "State law enforcement officer" is defined as any member employed by the: • Uniform Division of the Department of Public Safety as an officer, a noncommissioned officer, or a trooper; • Georgia Bureau of Investigation as an officer or agent; • Department of Natural Resources as a game warden; • Department of Revenue as an alcohol and tobacco officer or agent or as an officer of the Special Investigation Unit; • Motor Carrier Compliance Division as a sworn law enforcement officer; or • Capitol Police Division of the Department of Public Safety as a sworn law enforcement officer. Eligible State law enforcement officers must notify ERS of such irrevocable election into the SLEO Plan within 90 days of becoming a State law enforcement officer, or July 1, 2026, whichever is later, after which point they will be considered an "electing officer." This bill also provides that no "electing officer" shall be eligible to retire at any point prior to July 1, 2031, and if they should do so before such date, he or she will not be entitled to any of the enhanced benefits provided under the SLEO Plan. Members of the SLEO Plan will be entitled to the same benefits currently granted to law enforcement officers under ERS. In addition, they will be required to contribute five percent (5%) of his or her earnable compensation and receive enhanced retirement benefits based on their years of service. The following outlines the benefit structure for "electing officers" within the SLEO Plan:

Years of Creditable Service	% of Average Final Compensation
10	10%
11	13%
12	16%
13	19%
14	22%
15	25%
16	30%
17	35%
18	40%
19	45%
20	50%
21	56%
22	62%
23	68%
24	74%
25	80%

After an SLEO member reaches 25 years of creditable service, they will not be required to make further contributions to the Plan and their retirement benefit will be calculated based upon his or her average final compensation at such time. If such member does not elect to retire after obtaining 25 years of creditable service, their retirement benefit, in addition to any postretirement benefit adjustments granted, will be paid into a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) account until such member retires. Lastly, this bill requires ERS to create DROP accounts for each eligible "electing officer," where the related benefit amounts deposited earn interest at a market rate, to be determined by the ERS Board. Upon retirement, members of the SLEO Plan with a DROP account are entitled to receive a lump sum, a partial lump sum, or an annuity payment from such funds in her or her account. Additionally, the Board can make available options to roll such DROP account funds into certain tax-advantaged retirement accounts. ***Bill was assigned to the House Retirement Committee on 2/10/2025.***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia, so as to establish the State Law Enforcement Officer Plan to offer enhanced benefits for electing state law enforcement officers; to provide for irrevocable elections; to provide for conditions and limitations; to provide for deferred retirement option program accounts; to provide for definitions; to provide a short title; 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

Title: State Law Enforcement Officer Plan' or 'SLEO Plan'; enact

Current Status: In House

Introduction Date: 2025-02-06

Last Action Date: House Hopper. 2025-02-06

Summary: This bill establishes the State Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) Plan under the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia (ERS). The bill amends the definition of a 'State law enforcement officer' to mean any sworn police officers certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council employed to perform the duties of a peace officer, as such term is defined in Code Section 16-1-3, by the: Department of Corrections; Department of Community Supervision; Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; Office of the Attorney General; Georgia Board of Dentistry; Georgia Composite Medical Board; Department of Driver Services; Department of Transportation; Office of the Inspector General; Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia; State Board of Workers' Compensation; Department of Juvenile Justice; State Board of Pardons and Paroles; Georgia Public Safety Training Center; Public Service Commission; Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Agriculture; Department of Revenue; Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency; State Forestry Commission; Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner; Georgia Ports Authority; Georgia World Congress Center Police; and Department of Public Safety. Eligible State law enforcement officers must notify ERS of such irrevocable election into the SLEO Plan within 90 days of becoming a State law enforcement officer, or July 1, 2026, whichever is later, after which point they will be considered an "electing officer." This bill also provides that no "electing officer" shall be eligible to retire at any point prior to July 1, 2031, and if they should do so before such date, he or she will not be entitled to any of the enhanced benefits provided under the SLEO Plan. Members of the SLEO Plan will be entitled to the same benefits currently granted to law enforcement officers or members under ERS. In addition, they will be required to contribute five percent (5%) of his or her earnable compensation and receive enhanced retirement benefits based on their years of service. The following outlines the benefit structure for "electing officers" within the SLEO Plan: Years of Creditable Service % of Average Final Compensation 10 10% 11 13% 12 16% 13 19% 14 22% 15 25% 16 30% 17 35% 18 40% 19 45% 20 50% 21 56% 22 62% 23 68% 24 74% 25 80% After an SLEO member reaches 25 years of creditable service, they will not be required to make further contributions to the Plan and their retirement benefit will be calculated based upon his or her average final compensation at such time. If such member does not elect to retire after obtaining 25 years of creditable service, their retirement benefit, in addition to any postretirement benefit adjustments granted, will be paid into a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) account until such member retires. Lastly, this bill requires ERS to create DROP accounts for each eligible "electing officer," where the related benefit amounts deposited earn interest at a market rate, to be determined by the ERS Board. Upon retirement, members of the SLEO Plan with a DROP account are entitled to receive a lump sum, a partial lump sum, or an annuity payment from such funds in her or her account. Additionally, the Board can make available options to roll such DROP account funds into certain tax-advantaged retirement accounts. ***Bill was assigned to the House Retirement Committee on 2/10/2025.***

Description: A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia, so as to establish the State Law Enforcement Officer Plan to offer enhanced benefits for electing state law enforcement officers; to provide for irrevocable elections; to provide for conditions and limitations; to provide for deferred retirement option program accounts; to provide for definitions; to provide a short title; 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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