

**GSRA Legislative Report Post Sine Die (Week 12)**

**Active High Priority Legislation**

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Status</b>
<a href="#">HB 196</a> <a href="#">HCS</a>	Benton, Tommy 31st	House and Senate Retirement	Passed 3/22
<b>Requires trustees of public retirement systems to complete fiduciary training and educational courses in specified retirement areas.</b>			
<a href="#">HB 391</a>	Benton, Tommy 31st	House Retirement	Since February 22nd, this bill has been in House Second Readers. On hold by author pending MOU between ERS and GSRA. (Did not make it through Crossover Day but significant to GSRA)
<b>Authorizes ERS to access the names and contact information of members and beneficiaries of the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia shall be made available upon request by the Georgia State Retirees Association and any other similarly situated entity for the purpose of communicating with such members and beneficiaries, provided that the requesting entity pays the full costs to the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia associated with fulfilling the request.</b>			
<a href="#">HB 540</a>	Rhodes, Trey 120th Corbett, John 174th Watson, Sam 172nd	House Retirement	House passed and adopted on March 7th. Senate passed and adopted by substitute on March 29th. Did not pass on Sine Die.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amends O.C.G.A. § 33-1-18 relating to housing tax credit for qualified projects and rules and regulations, so as to add to the list of tax categories eligible for an offset by the housing tax credit.</b></li> <li>• <b>It also now replaces SB 56, which does the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Amends O.C.G.A. Title 33 by adding new Chapter 20E to establish standards for insurers and health care providers with regard to payment under a health benefit plan in the provision of emergency medical services.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Provides that insured recipients of emergency medical services shall not be required to pay more than in-network fees. Prohibits a nonparticipating provider nor a participating provider from billing or collecting any amount from the covered person for emergency medical services other than the patient's coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles, which is limited to the in-network cost-sharing amount.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

<a href="#">SB 26</a>	Ligon, Jr., William 3rd Black, Ellis 8th	Senate Retirement	Read and referred January 28, 2019.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-2-99 to allow for creditable retirement service for a one- time transition from the Georgia Defined Contribution Plan (GDCP) to the Employee's Retirement System of Georgia for members of the GDCP. Allows members of the GDCP to buy equivalent credit in the state's defined benefit plan.</li> <li>• Employees' Retirement System (ERS) members with at least five years of service who were members of the GDCP immediately prior to becoming members of ERS may obtain credit for all such prior GDCP 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.</li> </ul>			
<a href="#">SB 55</a>	Hufstetler, Chuck 52nd	Senate and House Retirement	Passed and adopted on March 21st.
<p>Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-2-51 Effective 1/1/21, this bill will allow Employees' Retirement System (ERS) members to use money from their Peach State Reserves (PSR) 401(k) and/ or 457 plan to purchase a Supplemental Guaranteed Lifetime Income (SGLI) amount to increase their monthly lifetime retirement income from the ERS pension plan.</p> <p>This bill is sponsored by ERS.</p>			
<a href="#">SB 56</a> <a href="#">SFA</a>	Hufstetler, Chuck 52nd Watson, Ben 1st Burke, Dean 11 <sup>th</sup> Parent, Elena 42nd Jackson, Lester 2nd	Senate Insurance and Labor House Insurance	Senate passed and adopted by substitute on March 5th. Received "do pass" from House subcommittee on 3/22.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Amends O.C.G.A. Title 33 by adding new Chapter 20E to establish standards for insurers and health care providers with regard to payment under a health benefit plan in the provision of emergency medical services.</li> <li>○ Provides that insured recipients of emergency medical services shall not be required to pay more than in-network fees. Prohibits a nonparticipating provider nor a participating provider from billing or collecting any amount from the covered person for emergency medical services other than the patient's coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles, which is limited to the in-network cost-sharing amount.</li> </ul>			
<a href="#">SB 117</a> <a href="#">HCS</a>	Black, Ellis 8th Robertson, Randy 29th Anderson, Tonya 43rd	Senate and House Retirement	Senate adopted on March 4th. House passed and adopted by substitute on March 29th.
<p>Adds new code section O.C.G.A. § 47-20-6 to require any persons who become members of most public retirement systems in Georgia on or after July 1, 2019 to pay full actuarial cost for certain creditable service that is already authorized for members. Persons who are members of such systems prior to July 1, 2019 would still be eligible to purchase such creditable service in accordance with current laws.</p>			

- Specifically, this substitute bill would prohibit any retirement system from enacting any law, rule, regulation, resolution, or ordinance for creditable service unless the individual is required to pay the full actuarial cost of the service granted.
- Additionally, this substitute bill would amend certain provisions under the Employees' Retirement System, Teachers Retirement System, Legislative Retirement System, and Sheriffs' Retirement Fund relating to the purchase of creditable service. If this legislation is enacted, persons who become members of these retirement systems on or after July 1, 2019 would be required to pay full actuarial cost for certain creditable service that is already authorized for members.

### Active Low Priority Legislation

<a href="#"><u>HB 7</u></a>	Petrea, Jesse 166th	House Ways & Means	This bill has been in House Second Readers since January 28th.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amends O.C.G.A. § 48-7-27 to provide that retirement income received as retirement benefits from military service, including any survivor benefits derived therefrom, shall not be subject to state income tax.</li> </ul>			
<a href="#"><u>HB 37</u></a>	Trammell, Robert 132nd District	House Appropriations	Since January 29th, this bill has been in House Second Readers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amends O.C.G.A. § 49-4-159.14 to provide for the authorization of appropriations to obtain federal financial participation for medical assistance payments to providers on behalf of Medicaid recipients pursuant to this article and funding the state's portion of the cost to expand the Medicaid program under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.</li> <li>• Such appropriations authorization shall provide a maximum amount of 138 percent of the federal poverty level.</li> </ul>			
<a href="#"><u>HB 67</u></a>	Benton, Tommy 31st	House Retirement	Since January 30th, this bill has been in House Second Readers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-6-60, relating to employee contributions to the Legislative Retirement System (LRS), payment of employee contributions on behalf of the member, and additional contributions, by revising subsections (a) and (f) as follows: (a) Each member shall contribute 9.5% of his or her monthly salary. This is an increase from the previous 7.5%. Such contributions shall be made through payroll deductions by the legislative fiscal officer.</li> <li>• Beginning 7/1/2020, this bill will increase the monthly retirement benefit payable to LRS members by increasing the multiplier from \$36 to \$50 multiplied by the number of years of the member's creditable service.</li> <li>• Active members on 7/1/2020 will receive the greater benefit of either \$50 multiplied by the number of years of creditable service for retirement benefit calculation purposes or a monthly service retirement allowance equal to 38% of the member's average monthly</li> </ul>			

salary. If an active member leaves office prior to 12/31/2020, they will only receive the \$50 multiplied by the number of years of creditable service benefit.

[HB 84](#)  
[HCS](#)

Smith, Richard 134<sup>th</sup>  
Taylor, Darlene 173rd  
Blackmon, Shaw 146th  
Hatchett, Matt 150th  
Efstration, Chuck 104<sup>th</sup>

House Insurance

House Committee favorably reported by substitute on February 27th. Lost in House on March 7th.

- **Amends Title 33 of the O.C.G.A. by adding new Chapter 20E to provide for consumer protections regarding health insurance.**
- **Requires providers to disclose participation agreements, affiliated hospitals, costs of services, and affiliated providers to patients upon request, verbally at the time an appointment is scheduled or confirm coverage prior to service being provided.**
- **Requires hospitals to publish standard charges for diagnosis related groups, in-network health care plans, and providers with which they have contracted.**
- **Insurers must provide enrollees with a variety of information regarding care access, out-of-network services, and claims processes.**
- **Provides an alternative dispute resolution process for patients to dispute hospital or provider bills.**
- **Requires providers to send bills to patients within 90 days of service.**

[HB 109](#)  
[HCS](#)

Benton, Tommy 31st  
Powell, Alan 32nd  
England, Terry 116th  
Gambill, Matthew 15th

House Retirement

HCS Favorably Reported on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Withdrawn from the House General Calendar and recommitted to Retirement by the Rules Committee on March 18th.

**For individuals who become members in the TRS on or after July 1, 2019, amends O.C.G.A. § 47-3:**

- **Sets \$200,000 as the maximum earnable compensation that can be used in the determination of retirement benefits;**
- **Sets a range for required employee contributions at 6-8.5 percent. The range for current members is 5-6 percent;**
- **Eliminates the opportunity for members to apply unused sick leave towards service credit;**
- **Changes the definition of ‘normal retirement age.’ Members covered under this legislation would reach ‘normal retirement age’ when the member’s age plus years of service equal 85 or when the member reaches 62 years of age and has at least ten years of membership service;**
- **Eliminates the right for teachers to retire in advance of the start of the school year when they achieve their 30 years of service by December 31st of that school year;**
- **Sets limitations on postretirement benefit adjustments. Under the provisions of this bill, such members would not receive a postretirement benefit adjustment more than once annually and such adjustment could not exceed the lesser of 3 percent or the prior year’s annualized rate of inflation as determined by the board of trustees.**

<a href="#">HB 195</a>	Benton, Tommy 31st	House Retirement	Since February 11th, this bill has been in House Second Readers.
<b>Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-7-103 to increase the benefit amount payable to beneficiaries after the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund member's death from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00.</b>			
<a href="#">HB 199</a>	Wilkerson, David 38th	House Ways and Means	Since February 11th, this bill has been in House Second Readers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amends O.C.G.A. § 48-7-27 to provide for a change in the computation of state taxable personal net income by increasing certain standard deductions.</b></li> </ul>			
<a href="#">HB 292</a>	Benton, Tommy 31st	House Retirement	Since February 15th, this bill has been in House Second readers.
<b>Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-21-5 to eliminate certain remittances required to be made by the University System of Georgia to the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>An amount equal to the accrued liability contribution determined by TRS that would have been made on behalf of employees participating in the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) if they had been members of the TRS;</b></li> <li>• <b>An amount equal to the increase in the normal contribution rate determined by TRS which results directly from participating employees ceasing to be or failing to become members of TRS.</b></li> </ul>			
<a href="#">HB 298</a>	Benton, Tommy 31st	House Retirement	House Committee Favorably Reported on February 19 <sup>th</sup> . Withdrawn from the General Calendar and recommitted to Retirement by the Rules Committee on February 26th.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-1-22, which requires public retirement systems to withhold retirement benefits until three times the value of a public employment-related crime have been forfeited by an individual convicted of such a crime, to allow the forfeiture to be calculated to be equal installments of the net present value of three times the value of the crime over the life expectancy of such person.</b></li> </ul>			
<a href="#">HB 320</a>	Belton, Dave 112th Blackmon, Shaw 146th Greene, Gerald 151st Wilkerson, David 38th Buckner, Debbie 137th	House Retirement	Since February 19th, this bill has been in House Second readers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adds new Code section O.C.G.A. § 47-3-127.1 to permit certain public employers to employ beneficiaries of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia who are teachers in certain capacities and under limited conditions. Requires such employers to make employer and employee contributions on behalf of such employed beneficiaries.</b></li> </ul>			

<a href="#">HB 336</a>	Blackmon, Shaw 146th Belton, Dave 112th Dickey, Robert 140th Clark, Heath 147th Bentley, Patty 139th Williams, Jr., Noel 148th	House Retirement	Since February 20th, bill has been in House Second Readers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-3-127 to allow the Teacher Retirement System to permit a retired member to be restored to service. He or she may elect to cease their retirement benefits and become a member of the system, contributing to it and allowing them to gain more credible service; or continue to receive retirement benefits and their allowance but without any additional creditable service.</b></li> <li>• <b>If a retired member is restored to service then the employer must notify TRS in writing within 30 days.</b></li> <li>• <b>An employer that directly or indirectly remunerates a beneficiary who is restored to service as a teacher and who has made or defaulted to the decision to not reinstate membership in retirement system shall pay to the retirement system an amount equal to the product of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>(A) The combination of the rate required by this chapter for employer contributions and employee contributions; and</b></li> <li>○ <b>(B) The remuneration made to such beneficiary.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<a href="#">HB 390</a>	Benton, Tommy 31st	House Retirement	Since February 22nd, bill has been in House Second Readers.
<p><b>Adds new O.C.G.A. code section § 47-3-89.1 to allow members of the Teachers Retirement System to be eligible to obtain creditable service for international teaching services by paying the full actuarial cost of obtaining such creditable service.</b></p>			
<a href="#">HB 589</a>	Kirby, Tom 114th Pruett, Jimmy 149th Wiedower, Marcus 119th Gaines, Houston 117th Burns, Jon 159th Caldwell, Michael 20th	House Retirement	Since March 11 <sup>th</sup> , this bill has been in House Second Readers.
<p><b>Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-16-102 to increase the benefit payable upon the death of certain members of the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund of Georgia from \$15,000 to \$25,000.</b></p>			
<a href="#">HB 593</a>	Benton, Tommy 31st	House Retirement	Since March 13 <sup>th</sup> , this bill has been in House Second Readers.
<p><b>Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-26-20 relating to retirement and pensions, so as to create the Tax Commissioners Retirement Fund of Georgia.</b></p>			
<a href="#">HB 618</a>	Cannon, Park 58th Scott, Sandra 76th Shannon, Renitta 84th Burnough, Rhonda 77th	House Insurance	Since March 18 <sup>th</sup> , this bill has been in House Second Readers.

	Thomas, "Able" Mable 56th		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amends O.C.G.A. § 45-18-4 relating to state employees' health insurance and benefit plans, so as to change certain provisions relating to expenses not to be covered by the state health benefit plan.</b></li> <li>• <b>The health insurance plan shall not include expenses incurred by or on account of an individual prior to the effective date of the plan; expenses for services received for injury or sickness due to war or any act of war, whether declared or undeclared, which war or act of war shall have occurred after the effective date of this plan; expenses for which the individual is not required to make payment; expenses to the extent of benefits provided under any employer group plan other than this plan in which the state participates in the cost thereof; expenses for sildenafil; expenses for abortion services except to the extent permitted under the state health benefit plan approved by the board as such plan existed on January 1, 2014; and such other expenses as may be excluded by regulations of the board.</b></li> </ul>		
<a href="#">HB 662</a>	Benton, Tommy 31st	House Retirement	Since March 26 <sup>th</sup> , this bill has been in House Second Readers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-3-23 to require actuarial investigations for the Teachers Retirement System to occur at least once in every three-year period;</b></li> <li>• <b>To provide that the maximum annual assumed rate of return shall not exceed 6 percent.</b></li> </ul>		
<a href="#">HB 663</a>	Efstration, Chuck 104th Fleming, Barry 121st	House Retirement	Since March 26 <sup>th</sup> , this bill has been in House Second Readers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-23-49 to require membership in the Georgia Judicial Retirement System for certain persons employed in certain full-time positions requiring admission to the State Bar of Georgia as a condition of employment.</b></li> </ul>		
<a href="#">HB 667</a>	Petrea, Jesse 166th Stephens, Ron 164th	House Insurance	Since March 28 <sup>th</sup> , this bill has been in House Second Readers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-3-23 to require actuarial investigations for the retirement system to occur at least once in every three-year period;</b></li> <li>• <b>To provide that the maximum annual assumed rate of return shall not exceed 6 percent;</b></li> <li>• <b>To require the retirement system to use direct rate smoothing for actuarially determined employer contributions;</b></li> <li>• <b>To require that future unfunded actuarial accrued liability shall be paid using 15 year amortization periods.</b></li> </ul>		
<a href="#">HB 672</a>	Martin, Chuck 49th Powell, Jay 171st Jasperse, Rick 11th Harrell, Brett 106th	House Retirement	Since March 26 <sup>th</sup> , this bill has been in House Second Readers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Also known as the "Free Market Solutions to Insure all Georgians Act", Amends O.C.G.A. by adding code section § 33-29A-1 to to provide a new, acceptable mechanism for the availability of individual health insurance coverage.</b></li> <li>• <b>To provide for an assigned risk plan for individual health insurance coverage;</b></li> <li>• <b>To provide for the creation of a standard health benefit plan;</b></li> </ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide for the creation of the Georgia Preexisting Condition Individual High Risk Pool;</li> <li>• To repeal the High Risk Health Insurance Plan and to repeal the Commission on the Georgia Health Insurance Risk Pool.</li> </ul>			
<a href="#">HB 699</a>	Fleming, Barry 121st	House Retirement	Since March 28 <sup>th</sup> , this bill has been in House Second Readers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-2-73 to provide that certain former members of the Georgia Judicial Retirement System may elect to resume active membership in the Georgia Judicial Retirement System upon obtaining certain employment.</li> </ul>			

<a href="#">SB 3</a>	Rhett, Michael 'Doc' 33rd District	Senate Health and Human Services	Read and referred January 15, 2019.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amends O.C.G.A. § 49-4-159 to provide for a program of premium assistance to enable eligible individuals to obtain health care coverage.</li> <li>• Requires personal responsibility premiums from eligible individuals.</li> <li>• Provides for a compliance pool, for any necessary state plan amendments or federal waivers and for Legislative Oversight Committee for Health Care Premium Assistance.</li> <li>• Provides for termination of the program under certain circumstances.</li> </ul>			

<a href="#">SB 14</a>	Seay, Valencia 34th District	Senate Retirement	Read and referred on January 30, 2019.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-6-60, to change certain provisions relating to employee contributions to the Legislative Retirement System (LRS). Each member shall contribute 9.5% of his or her monthly salary. This is an increase from the previous 7.5%. Such contributions shall be made through payroll deductions by the legislative fiscal officer.</li> <li>• Beginning 7/1/2020, this bill will increase the monthly retirement benefit payable to (LRS) members by increasing the multiplier from \$36 to \$50 multiplied by the number of years of the member’s creditable service.</li> <li>• This legislation also defines “Average Monthly Salary” to mean the average of the monthly salary of a member during the 24 consecutive months of membership service producing the highest such average. Additionally, “Monthly Salary” is defined to mean the full rate of the total combined regular monthly salary, not including any per diems, allowances, or expense reimbursements payable to a member, plus any additional regular monthly salary payable to the member pursuant to resolution adopted by the General Assembly. “Term of office” is also defined in this bill as the period of time beginning when an individual receives his or her commission as a member of the General Assembly from the Secretary of State, which commission is issued in accordance to law until the second Monday in January of the next off-numbered year.</li> <li>• Active members on 7/1/2020 will receive the greater benefit of either \$50 multiplied by the number of years of creditable service for retirement benefit calculation purposes or</li> </ul>			



<p>a monthly service retirement allowance equal to 38% of the member's average monthly salary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If an active member leaves office prior to 12/31/2020, they will only receive the \$50 multiplied by the number of years of creditable service benefit.</li> </ul>			
<p><a href="#">SB 18</a> <a href="#">SCS</a></p>	<p>Kirkpatrick, Kay 32<sup>nd</sup> Harbison, Ed 52<sup>nd</sup></p>	<p>Senate Health and Human Services  House Insurance</p>	<p>Senate passed and adopted by substitute on February 26<sup>th</sup>. House passed and adopted on March 14<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amends O.C.G.A. § 33-7-21 to allow physicians and patients to enter into direct primary care agreements for patients to receive care and clarifies that such agreements are not forms of insurance and are exempt from regulation by the Commissioner of Insurance.</li> <li>25 states have passed similar legislation.</li> <li>Allows agreements to be terminated by either party and entitles the patient to any unused portion of the money paid at the point of entry into the contract within 30 days of termination.</li> </ul>			
<p><a href="#">SB 28</a></p>			
<p>Jackson, Lester 2<sup>nd</sup> Hufstetler, Chuck 52<sup>nd</sup></p>	<p>Senate Health and Human Services</p>	<p>This bill was read by the Senate and referred on January 28, 2019.</p>	
<p>Adds new Code section O.C.G.A. § 33-24-59.25 to define the term 'health benefit plan' and mandate that no health benefit plan can charge a greater copay for services rendered by a licensed physical therapists, licensed occupational therapist, or licensed chiropractor than would be charged for services rendered by a primary care physician or licensed osteopath.</p>			
<p><a href="#">SB 36</a></p>	<p>Henson, Steve 41<sup>st</sup> Butler, Gloria 55<sup>th</sup> Harrell, Sally 40<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Senate Health and Human Services</p>	<p>This bill was read by the Senate and referred on January 30, 2019</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adds new Code section O.C.G.A. § 49-4-142.3.12 to authorize appropriations for the purposes of obtaining federal financial participation for medical assistance payments to providers on behalf of Medicaid recipients and funding the state's portion of the cost to expand the Medicaid program under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Such appropriations authorization shall not be required in the event the federal government does not provide a minimum of 90 percent of such funding.</li> </ul>			
<p><a href="#">SB 47</a></p>	<p>Black, Ellis 8<sup>th</sup> Rhett, Michael 'Doc' 33<sup>rd</sup> Jones II, Harold 22<sup>nd</sup> Harbison, Ed 15<sup>th</sup> Robertson, Randy 29<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Senate Retirement</p>	<p>Senate read and referred on February 5<sup>th</sup>.</p>

**Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-2-95 so Employees' Retirement System (ERS) members with at least two years of service may purchase up to five years of military service performed on or after 1/1/1990. Members must pay full actuarial cost for the service and will have the ability to pay for such service with a payment plan option. Service may not be purchased if the service can or will be used to qualify for any other state or federal retirement program.**

<a href="#">SB 90</a>	Karinshak, Zahra 48th Rahman, Sheikh 5th Lucas, David 26 <sup>th</sup> Jordan, Jennifer 6th Orrock, Nan 36th	Senate Health and Human Services	Senate Read and Referred on February 12 <sup>th</sup> .
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- **Adds new code section O.C.G.A. § 33-24-59.25 to require certain health insurers to cover emergency medical care.**
- **A health insurer shall provide payment or reimbursement for all emergency medical care provided to an insured; provided, however, that the health insurer may collect any required coinsurance, copayments, deductibles, or other patient financial responsibilities directly from the insured pursuant to the provisions of the health benefit policy.**

<a href="#">SB 106</a>	Tillery, Blake 19th Strickland, Brian 17th Miller, Butch 49th Dugan, Mike 30th Kennedy, John 18th	House Access to Quality Health Care  Senate Health and Human Services	Signed by the Governor on March 27th and became Act 4.
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- **Adds new O.C.G.A. code section § 49-4-142.3 to authorize the Department of Community Health to submit a Section 1115 waiver request to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This aims to help increase access to quality medical care.**
- **The bill authorizes the Governor to submit a Section 1332 innovation waiver proposal to the United States Secretaries of Health and Human Services and the Treasury.**
- **It provides for implementation of approved Section 1332 waivers and expiration of authority.**

<a href="#">SB 174</a>	Black, Ellis 8th Robertson, Randy 29th Brass, Matt 28th Anderson, Tonya 43rd Walker III, Larry 20th	Senate Retirement	Senate read and referred on February 25th.  <a href="#">SEE HB 298</a>
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- **Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-1-22 to add a new paragraph which modifies the manner of cessation or deduction of payments owed by a public employee as a result of employment related crimes through the following alternative:**
  - **A public retirement system may adopt a policy which provides that the regular benefit payments to the person convicted of a public employment related crime**

shall be reduced in equal installments that are actuarially determined to be equal to an amount equal to three times the economic impact of the crime over the life expectancy of such person.

- It also increases the time in which a public retirement system shall initiate certain administrative proceedings upon the conviction of a member or beneficiary of a public employment related crime from 30 to 90 days.

[SB 175](#)

Black, Ellis 8th  
Hufstetler, Chuck 52nd  
Robertson, Randy 29th  
Hill, Jack 4th  
Davenport, Gail 44th  
Anderson, Tonya 43rd

Senate  
Retirement

Favorably reported Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Senate passed and adopted on  
March 5<sup>th</sup>. The bill has been in  
House Second Readers since  
March 8<sup>th</sup>.

- Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-3-127 to allow for a beneficiary to return to service as a substitute teacher or an hourly classroom aide without becoming a contributing member again.
- An employer shall pay an employer contribution to the TRS equal to the retiree's benefit multiplied by the employer contribution rate.

[SB 176](#)  
[SCS](#)

Black, Ellis 8th  
Hufstetler, Chuck 52nd  
Robertson, Randy 29th  
Hill, Jack 4th  
Davenport, Gail 44th  
Anderson, Tonya 43rd

Senate and  
House  
Retirement

Senate passed and adopted by  
substitute on March 5<sup>th</sup>. House  
Committee favorably reported on  
March 13<sup>th</sup>. Withdrawn from the  
House General Calendar and  
recommitted to Retirement by the  
Rules Committee on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

- Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-2-112 to add to the term 'employer', which shall include a retired member's last employer which reported to the retirement system prior to the member's effective date of retirement.
- Such term shall also include the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.
- If a member who retired under this chapter accepts paid employment with or renders services for pay to any employer, including, without limitation, services directly or indirectly as or for an independent contractor, after his or her retirement:
  - Such employer shall pay to the retirement system the employer and employee contributions required; and payment of such member's retirement allowance shall be suspended, except for the following: the employee has attained normal retirement age or has not been employed by or rendered services for pay to any employer for at least two consecutive calendar months and performs no more than 1,040 hours of paid employment or paid service, including, without limitation, services directly or indirectly as or for an independent contractor, for the employer in any calendar year.
- This substitute bill would amend provisions relating to retirement allowances of retired members under the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia. If this legislation is enacted, employers would be required to pay both the employee and employer

contribution for any retired member that renders service for pay either directly or indirectly to an employer that participates in the System. The member would continue to receive their retirement allowance during the period of re-employment provided he or she does not exceed 1,040 hours of paid employment during the calendar year. It should be noted that members would not earn any additional creditable service in the System if this legislation is enacted.

[SB 248](#)

Albers, John 56th  
Harper, Tyler 7th  
Robertson, Randy 29th

Senate  
Retirement

Senate read and referred on  
March 21st.

- **Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-7-60, relating to the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund.**
- **First, this bill would increase the monthly member contribution from \$25 to \$50.**
- **Additionally, this bill would increase the tax on premiums charged by fire insurance companies for certain classes of coverage from one percent to two percent. Funds from this tax are remitted to the Fund.**
- **Finally, this bill would increase the monthly retirement benefits payable to retired members and to surviving spouses. Such increases would be phased in through July 1, 2022.**

[SB 249](#)

Albers, John 56th  
Harper, Tyler 7th  
Robertson, Randy 29th

Senate  
Retirement

Senate read and referred on  
March 21st.

- **Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-17-44, relating to the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund.**
- **First, this bill would increase the monthly contributions paid by members. Currently, members are required to pay contributions of \$20 per month.**
- **If this legislation is enacted, members would be required to pay contributions of \$25 per month. However, on and after July 1, 2021, the monthly dues would be determined annually by the Board and would range from \$25 per month to \$30 per month, based on the actuarial soundness of the Fund.**
- **Additionally, this bill would revise the amount of fines and forfeitures from criminal and quasi-criminal cases that are remitted to the Fund. The amount of fees collected is based on the total fee imposed.**
- **Finally, this bill would increase the monthly retirement benefit payable to members. Currently, retired members receive a monthly benefit of \$17.50 for each full year of creditable service. If this legislation is enacted, the monthly benefit would be increased to \$35 for each full year of creditable service.**

[SB 259](#)

Black, Ellis 8th

Senate  
Retirement

The senate read and referred on  
March 22nd.

- **Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-6-60, relating to the Georgia Legislative Retirement System. Specifically, this bill would:**
- **Provide definitions for the terms 'average monthly salary,' 'monthly salary,' and 'term of office;'**
- **Increase the member contribution to 9 ½ percent of the member's monthly salary;**

- **Revise the method for calculating the cost of purchasing creditable service for prior military service;**
- **Increase monthly retirement benefit payable to retired members and inactive members to \$50 multiplied by the number of years of creditable service; and**
- **Change the method for calculating retirement benefits for current active members and for any person who first becomes a contributing member after July 1, 2020. This change would allow the member to receive a retirement allowance equal to the greater of (1) thirty-eight percent of the member’s average monthly salary, or (2) the monthly retirement allowance provided by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated §47-6-80 (d).**

<a href="#">SB 260</a>	Black, Ellis 8th	Senate Retirement	The Senate read and referred on March 22nd.
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- **Amends O.C.G.A. § 47-3-23, relating to the Teachers Retirement System.**
- **Specifically, this bill would require the System to receive an actuarial investigation into the mortality, service, and compensation experience of members and beneficiaries at least once every three years.**
- **Currently, such investigation must be conducted at least once in every five-year period.**
- **Additionally, this bill would require the System to set the maximum annual assumed rate of return at an amount not to exceed six percent.**

<a href="#">SB 262</a>	Harbison, Ed 15th Robertson, Randy 29th	Senate Retirement	Since March 28th, in House Second Readers
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- **Amends O.C.G.A. §47-2-121, relating to the Employees' Retirement System to provide that if a beneficiary who elected option two upon retirement is predeceased by the contingent beneficiary, such beneficiary shall be eligible to make a new retirement election or nominate another person to become the contingent beneficiary.**