

The House Committee on Retirement offers the following substitute to HB 690:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Part 5 of Article 8 of Chapter 2 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to membership of certain law enforcement officers in the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia, so as to provide that certain law enforcement officers may obtain creditable service in such retirement system under certain conditions; to define a certain term; to provide for the payment of the full actuarial value of obtaining such creditable service; to provide for application; to provide for related matters; to provide conditions for an effective date and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Part 5 of Article 8 of Chapter 2 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to membership of certain law enforcement officers in the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"47-2-226.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'law enforcement officer' means any member in service of the Uniform Division of the Department of Public Safety, any conservation ranger of the Department of Natural Resources, any officer or agent of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, any district attorney investigator who is compensated from state funds pursuant to Code Section 15-18-14.1, and any alcohol and tobacco officer or agent of the Department of Revenue.

(b) Any law enforcement officer who, prior to becoming a member of this retirement system, was employed by a local government as a full-time employee, in a position in which he or she was vested with authority to enforce the criminal or traffic laws and with the power of arrest and whose duties include the preservation of public order, the protection of life and property, or the prevention, detection, or investigation of crime, shall be eligible to obtain creditable service under this Code section if:

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(1) The member was not eligible for a defined benefit or defined contribution retirement or pension plan while employed by the local governing authority other than membership in the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund; and

(2) The member has been a member of the retirement system for at least ten years.

(c) Any member eligible as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section may obtain up to an additional five years of creditable service, not to exceed the actual number of years of service described in subsection (b) of this Code section. In order to obtain such additional creditable service, the member shall:

(1) Make application to the board of trustees in such manner and provide such documentation as the board deems appropriate; and

(2) Pay to the board of trustees an amount determined by the board of trustees to be sufficient to cover the full actuarial cost of granting the creditable service as provided in this Code section.

(d) Upon receipt of an application for additional creditable service, the board of trustees shall certify to the applicant the amount of the payment required by paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of this Code section."

SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2016, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2016, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.