

Audit Report

*Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017*



The photograph on the cover was taken by Lacey Mitchell at Jekyll Island, Georgia.

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

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SECTION I - FINANCIAL

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DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

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GREG S. GRIFFIN
STATE AUDITOR
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Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Nathan Deal, Governor of Georgia
Members of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia
Board of Commissioners of the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia
Mr. Robert Carter, Secretary/Treasurer

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia (the Fund), a component unit of the State of Georgia, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Fund's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fiduciary net position of the Fund as of June 30, 2017, and the changes in fiduciary net position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matter

As described in Note 2 to the basic financial statements, in 2017 the Fund adopted new accounting guidance, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 82, *Pension Issues – an Amendment of GASB Statements No. 67, 68, and No. 73*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Schedule of Employers' and Nonemployers' Net Pension Liability, Schedule of Changes in Employers' and Nonemployers' Net Pension Liability, Schedule of Employer and Nonemployer Contributions, and Schedule of Investment Returns on pages 26-30 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the

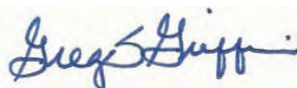
information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 27, 2018 on our consideration of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Fund's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg S. Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

April 27, 2017

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BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Statement of Fiduciary Net Position

June 30, 2017

Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	27,481,952
Receivables		
Interest and dividends	\$	805,792
Due from brokers for securities sold	<u>3,724,262</u>	4,530,054
Investments - at fair value:		
Obligations:		
Mutual funds	\$	18,289,556
Exchange traded funds		15,288,860
Municipal bonds		891,921
U.S. Treasury obligations		35,926,152
U.S. Agency obligations		23,392,781
Foreign government obligations		737,949
Corporate bonds/notes/debentures		
Domestic	42,585,919	
International	4,933,135	
Asset-backed securities		6,271,339
Mortgage investments	<u>14,052,942</u>	162,370,554
Equities:		
Mutual funds	218,317,405	
Exchange traded funds	197,588	
Stocks		
Domestic	297,255,257	
International	54,714,753	
Real estate investment trusts	<u>3,071,703</u>	<u>573,556,706</u>
Total investments		<u>735,927,260</u>
Capital assets, net		<u>628,191</u>
Total assets		<u>768,567,457</u>
Liabilities:		
Due to brokers for securities purchased		13,919,144
Withholdings payable		2,518
Notes payable		<u>31,202</u>
Total liabilities		<u>13,952,864</u>
Net position restricted for pensions	\$	<u>754,614,593</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA

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Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

Year ended June 30, 2017

Additions:

Contributions:

Nonemployer	\$	14,004,975
Members		3,481,782

Net investment income:

Net increase in fair value of investments	\$	69,218,807	
Interest, dividends, and other		15,517,765	
Less investment expense		<u>(3,126,361)</u>	81,610,211

Miscellaneous			<u>65,502</u>
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Total additions			<u>99,162,470</u>
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Deductions:

Benefit payments			32,216,207
Refunds of member contributions			405,874
Administrative expenses, net			<u>946,706</u>

Total deductions			<u>33,568,787</u>
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Net increase in net position			65,593,683
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Net position restricted for pensions:

Beginning of year			<u>689,020,910</u>
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End of year	\$		<u><u>754,614,593</u></u>
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See accompanying notes to financial statements.

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2017

Note 1: Plan Description

The Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia (the Fund) was created in 1950 by the Georgia General Assembly to provide retirement benefits for qualifying peace officers. The Fund administers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan as defined in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 25*.

The Fund is governed by its Board of Commissioners. The Board is comprised of the Governor of the State of Georgia or his designee; an appointee of the Governor other than the Attorney General; the Commissioner of Insurance or his designee; and three active or retired peace officers appointed by the Governor. The Board of Commissioners is ultimately responsible for the administration of the Fund.

Eligibility and Membership

Individuals eligible to apply for membership in the Fund are defined in the *Official Code of Georgia Annotated* (O.C.G.A.) 47-17-1 and generally include: any individual employed by the State of Georgia or any municipality, county, or other political subdivision thereof for the preservation of public order, the protection of life and property or the detection of crime; wardens and correction officers of correctional institutions; full-time parole officers; other individuals employed full-time for the purpose of law enforcement; and full-time employees of the Fund.

As of June 30, 2017, participation in the Fund is as follows:

Inactive members and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits	5,823
Terminated members not yet receiving benefits, vested	1,386
Active plan members	13,002
Total	<u>20,211</u>

Participating Employers and Other Contributing Entities

At June 30, 2017, the active members of the Fund were employed by 609 employers. The Fund also had 1 nonemployer contributing entity, which is the State of Georgia.

Retirement Benefits

The Fund provides retirement as well as disability and death benefits. Title 47 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the authority to establish and amend the provisions of the Fund to the General Assembly. A member is eligible to receive retirement benefits with 30 years of service, regardless of age. A member is also eligible to receive retirement benefits at age 55 with 10 years of service; however, members joining on or after July 1, 2010, must have 15 years of service to be eligible for benefits.

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A member must have terminated his or her active employment as a peace officer to receive benefits.

The monthly benefit is a single life annuity payable in monthly payments for the life of the member only. The monthly payment amount at June 30, 2017, was \$24.41 per month (plus 1/12 of this amount for each month of any partial year) for each full year of creditable service up to a maximum of 30 years of total service. The Board of Commissioners is authorized to provide for increases effective as of January 1 and July 1 of each year up to 1.5% of the maximum monthly retirement benefit then in effect. Members may elect, as an alternate to the benefit described above, to receive a 100% joint life annuity payable during the life of the member or the member's spouse, or a contingency life annuity with a 50% monthly payment to the surviving spouse. The amount of the benefit for these options is an actuarially reduced portion of the single life annuity benefit described above.

Death and Disability Benefits

Any dues paying member who became a member prior to July 1, 1993, and becomes totally and permanently disabled is entitled to receive disability benefits, the amount of which is dependent upon the date of application for disability benefits.

If a member dies before retirement, the beneficiary is entitled to a lump sum of \$3,500. If a member dies in the line of duty and has a designated beneficiary, that beneficiary is eligible to receive a lump sum benefit of \$5,500 to be reduced (to no less than \$2,500) by the amount of any disability benefits received for the causative injury, as described above. If a member dies after retirement, the death benefit of the designated beneficiary is dependent on the amount of retirement benefits previously received by the deceased member. If the deceased member had received \$1,000 or more, the beneficiary is entitled to receive a lump sum of \$2,500. If the deceased member had received less than \$1,000, the beneficiary is entitled to receive an amount that when added to the amount previously received by the deceased member will total \$3,500.

Terminations

At any time before a member begins drawing retirement benefits, the member may request a refund of 95% of all member contributions paid into the Fund during creditable service. No interest is paid on these withdrawals.

Contributions

The Fund is funded by member and nonemployer contributing entity (Nonemployer) contributions. Contribution provisions are established by statute and may be amended only by the General Assembly.

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June 30, 2017

Member Contributions: Member contribution requirements are set forth in O.C.G.A. 47-17-44 and are not actuarially determined. Each member must contribute \$20 per month, to be paid no later than the tenth day of each month.

Nonemployer Contributions: In accordance with O.C.G.A. 47-17-60, the State of Georgia provides nonemployer contributions to the Fund through the collection of fines and forfeitures. For each criminal and quasi-criminal case involving the violation of State of Georgia laws, county ordinances, or municipal ordinances, courts collect and remit the following amounts:

For fines and bond forfeitures in excess of \$4, but not more than \$25	\$3
For fines and bond forfeitures in excess of \$25, but not more than \$50	\$4
For fines and bond forfeitures in excess of \$50, but not more than \$100	\$5
For fines and bond forfeitures in excess of \$100	5%

The fines and forfeitures are considered employer contributions for the purpose of determining whether the Fund has met minimum funding requirements specified in O.C.G.A. 47-20-10. This statute also prohibits any action to grant a benefit increase until such time as the minimum annual contribution requirements meet or exceed legislative requirements. The actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2017, calculated the minimum employer contribution for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, as \$12,651,232. The fines and forfeitures revenue of \$14,004,975 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, did meet the minimum required fund contribution.

Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses are generally funded from current member and nonmember contributions. Investment earnings may be utilized to fund any expenses in excess of contributions.

Note 2: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Plan Asset Matters

Basis of Accounting

The Fund's financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting, except for the collection of contributions, which are recognized when collected from the members and the courts. Any accrual of these contributions would be immaterial to the Fund's financial statements. Retirement and refund payments are recognized as deductions when due and payable.

Reporting Entity

The Fund is a component unit of the State of Georgia; however, it is accountable for its own fiscal matters and presentation of its separate financial statements. The Fund has considered potential component units under GASB Statements No. 61, *The Financial Reporting Entity's Omnibus – an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 34*, and GASB Statement No. 39, *Determining*

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Whether Certain Organizations are Component Units, and determined there were no component units of the Fund.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents, reported at cost, include cash on deposit at banks, cash on deposit with the investment custodian earning a credit to offset fees, and short-term highly liquid financial securities with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Investments

Investments are reported at fair value. Equity securities traded on a national or international exchange are valued at the last reported sales price. Fixed income securities are valued based primarily on quoted market prices provided by independent pricing sources. Global foreign exchange holdings are translated using a third-party vendor. Investment income is recognized as earned by the Fund. There are no investments in, loans to, or leases with parties related to the Fund.

The Fund utilizes various investment instruments. Investment securities, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit, foreign currency, and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the financial statements.

The Fund maintains an investment policy that may be amended by its Board of Commissioners both upon its own initiative and upon consideration of the advice and recommendations of its investment managers. There were no significant changes in the investment policy for the Fund during the fiscal year.

The Fund's policy regarding the allocation of invested assets is established on a cost basis in compliance with State law. Plan assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving and maintaining a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the pension plan. The following was the Fund's adopted asset allocation policy as of June 30, 2017:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>
Fixed income	20% - 40%
Equities	30% - 75%
Cash and cash equivalents	0% - 10%
Total	100%

Approximately 8.1% of the investments held in trust for pension benefits are invested in debt securities of the U.S. government and its instrumentalities, of which 4.9% are U.S. government debt securities and 3.2% are debt securities of the U.S. government instrumentalities. The Fund

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has no investments in any one organization, other than those issued by the U.S. government and its instrumentalities, that represent 5% or more of the plan's total investments.

For the year ended June 30, 2017, the annual money-weighted rate of return on pension plan investments, net of pension plan investment expense, was 11.91%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of fiduciary net position and changes therein. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

New Accounting Pronouncements

Pronouncements effective for the 2017 financial statements:

In June 2015, the GASB issued Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*. This Statement improves the usefulness of other postemployment benefits (OPEB) information included in the general purpose external financial reports of state and local governmental OPEB plans for making decisions and assessing accountability. Implementation of this Statement by organizations that provide OPEB will require extensive note disclosures and required supplementary information (RSI) related to the measurement of the OPEB liabilities. There are no applicable reporting requirements for the Fund related to this Statement.

In August 2015, the GASB issued Statement No. 77, *Tax Abatement Disclosures*. This Statement defines tax abatement and provides disclosure guidance for governments that have granted tax abatements. There are no applicable reporting requirements for the Fund related to this Statement.

In December 2015, the GASB issued Statement No. 78, *Pensions Provided through Certain Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plans*. The objective of this Statement is to amend the scope and applicability of Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, to exclude pensions provided to employees of state or local governmental employers through certain multiple employer defined benefit pension plans and to establish accounting and reporting requirements for those pensions. There are no applicable reporting requirements for the Fund related to this Statement.

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June 30, 2017

In January 2016, the GASB issued Statement No. 80, *Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units*. The objective of this Statement is to improve financial reporting by clarifying the financial Statement presentation requirements for certain component units and to amend the blending requirements established in paragraph 53 of Statement No. 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity, as amended*. There are no applicable reporting requirements for the Fund related to this Statement.

In March 2016, the GASB issued Statement No. 82, *Pension Issues - an Amendment of GASB Statements No. 67, 68, and No. 73*. The objective of this Statement is to address issues regarding (1) the presentation of payroll related measures in the required supplementary information, (2) the selection of assumptions and the treatment of deviations from the guidance in an Actuarial Standard of Practice for financial reporting purposes, and (3) the classification of payments made by employers to satisfy employee (plan member) contribution requirements. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 82 did not impact the amounts recorded or disclosures presented in the Fund's financial Statements.

Pronouncements issued, but not yet effective:

In June 2015, the GASB issued Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans* effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2017. This Statement addresses accounting and financial reporting for OPEB that is provided to the employees of state and local governmental employers. This Statement establishes standards for recognizing and measuring liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expenses. This Statement also establishes requirements for note disclosures and required supplementary information for defined benefit OPEB plans. The Fund is in process of evaluating the impact of this pronouncement on its financial statements.

In March 2016, the GASB issued Statement No. 81, *Irrevocable Split-Interest Agreements* effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016. The objective of this Statement is to improve accounting and financial reporting for irrevocable split-interest agreements by providing recognition and measurement guidance for situations in which a government is a beneficiary of the agreement. There will be no applicable reporting requirements for the Fund related to this Statement.

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Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2017

In November 2016, the GASB issued Statement No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations* effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2018. This Statement addresses accounting and financial reporting for certain asset retirement obligations (AROs). An ARO is a legally enforceable liability associated with the retirement of a tangible capital asset. The Fund does not anticipate this statement to impact its financial statements and related reporting.

In January 2017, the GASB issued Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities* effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018. The objective of this Statement is to improve guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how those activities should be reported. The Fund is in process of evaluating the impact of this pronouncement on its financial statements.

In March 2017, the GASB issued Statement No. 85, *Omnibus 2017* effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2017. This Statement addresses practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements. A variety of topics are addressed including issues related to blending component units, goodwill, fair value measurement and application, and OPEB. The Fund is in process of evaluating the impact of this pronouncement on its financial statements.

In May 2017, the GASB issued Statement No. 86, *Certain Debt Extinguishment Issues* effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2017. The primary objective of this Statement is to improve consistency in accounting and financial reporting for in-substance defeasance of debt. There will be no applicable reporting requirements for the Fund related to this Statement.

Note 3: Investment Program

The Fund maintains sufficient cash to meet its immediate liquidity needs. Cash not immediately needed is invested as directed by the investment policy of the Fund. All investments are held by agent custodial banks in the name of the Fund. State statutes and the Fund's investment policy authorize the Fund to invest in a variety of short-term and long-term securities.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Fund had cash on hand of \$200 at June 30, 2017.

The carrying amount of the Fund's operating account totaled \$172,292 at June 30, 2017, with an actual bank balance of \$189,412. The Fund's cash balance is fully insured through the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, an independent agency of the U.S. Government.

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The carrying amount of the Fund's cash balances maintained within an investment account is \$14,509,964 at June 30, 2017. This balance includes \$479,317, which is fully insured through the Securities Investors Protection Corporation, an independent agency of the U.S. Government. This balance also includes \$136,208, which is held in British Pounds and is uncollateralized. The remaining balance of \$13,894,439 is uncollateralized.

The Fund's investment policy authorizes investment in short-term highly liquid financial securities. At June 30, 2017, the Fund held \$73,279 in money market mutual funds and \$12,726,217 in short term investment funds.

Investments

Fixed income investments are maintained in mutual funds, exchanged traded funds, municipal bonds, U.S. Treasury obligations, obligations unconditionally guaranteed by agencies of the U.S. Government, obligations of foreign governments, investment-grade corporate bonds, asset-backed securities, and mortgage-related securities.

Equity investments are maintained in mutual funds, exchange traded funds, domestic equities, international equities, and real estate investment trusts. Domestic equities are those securities considered by the O.C.G.A. to be domiciled in the United States. International equities are not considered by the O.C.G.A to be domiciled in the United States.

The equity portfolio is managed by the Fund in conjunction with independent advisors. Buy/sell decisions are based on securities meeting rating criteria established by the investment policy of the Fund. Equity trades are approved and executed by the independent advisors. Common stocks eligible for investment must meet the Objectives and Policies of the Fund's investment policy. State law limits the total investment in equity securities to 75% of the total invested assets calculated on a historical cost basis.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations to the Fund. State law limits investments to investment grade securities. The Fund's investment policy requires that the bond portfolio be of high quality and chosen primarily with respect to the safety and liquidity of the investment and only secondarily by the yield available. The Fund's investment policy also requires that purchases of bonds be restricted to bonds rated as investment grade or higher quality as defined by a nationally recognized rating agency. Obligations of the U.S. Government or obligations explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. Government are not considered to have credit risk and do not require disclosure of credit quality.

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June 30, 2017

The quality ratings of investments in fixed income securities at June 30, 2017, as described by Standard & Poor's, which is a nationally recognized statistical rating organization, are shown in the following table:

Quality Ratings of Fixed Income Investments
Held at June 30, 2017

Investment Type	Total Fair Value	AAA	AA	A	BBB	BB	Unrated
Cash and Cash Equivalents Subject to Credit Risk:							
Money market mutual funds	\$ 73,279	73,279					
Short term investment funds	12,726,217						12,726,217
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents Subject to Credit Risk	\$ 12,799,496	73,279					12,726,217
Debt Securities Subject to Credit Risk:							
Mutual funds	\$ 18,289,556						18,289,556
Exchange traded funds	15,288,860						15,288,860
Municipal bonds	891,921		663,740	113,307	114,874		
US Agency obligations							
Implicitly guaranteed	20,558,314		1,933,269				18,625,045
Foreign government obligations	737,949		235,822	200,500	97,525	204,102	
Corporate debt							
Domestic	42,585,919	330,194	2,060,263	12,816,840	25,788,048	254,308	1,336,266
International	4,933,135	724,532	336,362	1,231,502	2,640,739		
Asset-backed securities	6,271,339	3,528,789	249,222				2,493,328
Mortgage-backed securities	14,052,942	7,320,014	241,769	75,227			6,415,932
Total Debt Securities Subject to Credit Risk	\$ 123,609,935	11,903,529	5,720,447	14,437,376	28,641,186	458,410	62,448,987
Debt Securities Not Subject to Credit Risk:							
U.S. Treasury obligations	35,926,152						
U.S. Agency obligations							
Explicitly guaranteed	2,834,467						
Total Debt Securities	\$ 162,370,554						

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Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Fund does not have a formal policy for managing interest rate risk. The following table provides information about the Fund's interest rate risk:

Investment type	Duration of Fixed Income Instruments Held at June 30, 2017					
	Total Fair Value	Maturity Period				
		Less than 3 Months	4 - 12 Months	1 - 5 Years	6 - 10 Years	More than 10 Years
Cash and Cash Equivalents Subject to Interest Rate Risk:						
Money market mutual funds	\$ 73,279	73,279				
Short term investment funds	12,726,217	12,726,217				
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents Subject to Interest Rate Risk:	\$ 12,799,496	12,799,496				
Debt Securities Subject to Interest Rate Risk:						
Mutual funds	\$ 18,289,556				18,289,556	
Exchange traded funds	15,288,860			6,162,903	9,125,957	
Municipal bonds	891,921		91,471			800,450
U.S. Treasury obligations	35,926,152			21,776,498	11,650,244	2,499,410
U.S. Agency obligations	23,392,781		5	2,336,479	162,285	20,894,012
Foreign government obligations	737,949			235,822		502,127
Corporate debt						
Domestic	42,585,919	25,178	1,200,351	13,685,382	20,067,847	7,607,161
International	4,933,135		765,360	1,986,051	1,864,089	317,635
Asset-backed securities	6,271,339			1,272,051	3,582,621	1,416,667
Mortgage-backed securities	14,052,942			6,068,205	2,244,704	5,740,033
Total Debt Securities Subject to Interest Rate Risk:	\$ 162,370,554	25,178	2,057,187	53,523,391	66,987,303	39,777,495

Concentration of Credit Risk

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss that may be attributed to the magnitude of the Fund's investment in a single issue. On June 30, 2017, the Fund did not have debt investments in any one organization, other than those issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies, which represented greater than 5% of plan's total investments.

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2017

Foreign Currency Risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that changes in exchange rates will adversely impact the fair value of an investment. The Fund's currency risk exposures, or exchange rate risks, primarily reside within the Fund's international investment holdings. The Fund does not have a formal policy for managing foreign currency risk. As of June 30, 2017, the Fund's exposure to foreign currency risk in U.S. dollars, is highlighted in the following table:

International Investment Securities at Fair Value as of June 30, 2017

Currency	Equities	Fixed Income	Total
Australian Dollar	\$ 607,388		607,388
Bermudian Dollar	1,080,054		1,080,054
Brazilian Real	653,047		653,047
British Pound	21,439,481		21,439,481
Canadian Dollar	1,268,262	208,327	1,476,589
Caymanian Dollar	662,123		662,123
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	1,012,381		1,012,381
Danish Krone	179,538		179,538
Euro	21,732,279		21,732,279
Hong Kong Dollar	1,033,972		1,033,972
Indian Rupee	571,918		571,918
Israeli Shekel	688,606		688,606
Japanese Yen	6,183,783		6,183,783
Mexican Peso	364,233		364,233
New Taiwan Dollar	878,055		878,055
Norwegian Krone	430,121		430,121
Singapore Dollar	744,251		744,251
South African Rand	972,090		972,090
Swedish Krona	1,262,476		1,262,476
Swiss Franc	2,406,705		2,406,705
Turkish Lira	167,764		167,764
Total Holdings subject to Foreign Currency Risk	64,338,526	208,327	64,546,852
Investment Securities payable in U.S. Dollars	3,997,574	4,724,808	8,722,382
Total international investment securities - at fair value*	\$ 68,336,100	4,933,135	73,269,234

* Equities total includes \$122,179 of international exchange traded funds, and \$13,499,168 of international mutual funds. The remaining exchange traded funds and mutual funds of \$204,893,646 are domestic equities.

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2017

Fair Value Measurement

The Fund categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the inputs used in valuation and gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets and requires that observable inputs be used in the valuations when available. The disclosure of fair value estimates in the hierarchy is based on whether the significant inputs into the valuation are observable. In determining the level of the hierarchy in which the estimate is disclosed, the highest level, Level 1, is given to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets and the lowest level, Level 3, to unobservable inputs. These guidelines recognize a three-tiered hierarchy, as follows:

Level 1 – Valuations based on unadjusted quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.

Level 2 – Valuations based on quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs are observable.

Level 3 - Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement.

In instances where inputs used to measure fair value fall into different levels in the fair value hierarchy, fair value measurements in their entirety are categorized based on the lowest level input that is significant to the valuation. The Fund's assessment of the significance of particular inputs to these fair value measurements requires judgement and considers factors specific to each investment.

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2017

The following table shows the fair value leveling of the Fund's investments:

Investments measured at fair value as of June 30, 2107

	Total	Fair value measures using		
		Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Significant other observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)
Investments by fair value level				
Cash and Cash Equivalents:				
Money market mutual funds	\$ 73,279	73,279		
Short term investment funds	12,726,217		12,726,217	
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents by fair value level	\$ 12,799,496	73,279	12,726,217	
Debt Securities:				
Mutual Funds	\$ 18,289,556	18,289,556		
Exchange traded funds	15,288,860	6,162,903	9,125,957	
Municipal bonds	891,921		891,921	
U.S. Treasury obligations	35,926,152		35,926,152	
U.S. Agency obligations	23,392,781		23,392,781	
Foreign government obligations	737,949		737,949	
Corporate debt				
Domestic	42,585,919		42,585,919	
International	4,933,135		4,933,135	
Asset-backed securities	6,271,339		6,271,339	
Mortgage-backed securities	14,052,942		14,052,942	
Equities:				
Mutual funds	218,317,405	66,988,447	151,328,958	
Exchange traded funds	197,588	197,588		
Stocks				
Domestic	297,255,257	297,255,257		
International	54,714,753	54,714,753		
Real estate investment trusts	3,071,703	3,071,703		
Total Investments by fair value level	\$ 735,927,260	446,680,207	289,247,053	

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2017

Equity securities classified in Level 1 are valued using prices quoted in active markets for those securities.

Debt securities classified in Level 1 are valued using prices quoted in active markets. Debt securities classified in Level 2 are valued using either a bid evaluation or a matrix pricing technique. Bid evaluations may include market quotations, yields, maturities, call features and ratings. Matrix pricing is used to value securities based on the securities' relationship to benchmark quoted prices. These securities have nonproprietary information that was readily available to market participants, from multiple independent sources, which are known to be actively involved in the market.

Mutual funds classified in Level 1 are valued using prices quoted in active markets for those investment types. Mutual funds classified in Level 2 are valued using observable underlying inputs that are market corroborated.

The Fund did not have any Net Asset Value (NAV) investments at June 30, 2017.

Note 4: Net Pension Liability of Employers and Nonemployers

The components of the collective net pension liability of the participating employers and nonemployers at June 30, 2017, were as follows:

Total pension liability	\$	742,608,761
Plan fiduciary net position		<u>(754,614,593)</u>
Net pension asset	\$	<u><u>(12,005,832)</u></u>

Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total pension liability	101.62%
------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------

Actuarial assumptions

The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2016, with update procedures used to roll forward the total pension liability to June 30, 2017. The roll forward calculation adds the normal cost (also called service costs), subtracts the actual benefit payments and refunds for the plan year, and then applies the discount rate for the year. This actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.5%	
Salary increases	N/A	
Investment rate of return	6.50%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation	

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2017

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Healthy Mortality Table with blue collar adjustment projected with the Conduent modified MP-2016 projection scale for healthy lives and the RP-2014 Disabled Retiree Mortality Table projected with the Conduent modified MP-2016 projection scale for disabled lives.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2016 valuation were based on the results of an experience study covering the period June 30, 2008 through June 30, 2015.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was calculated by the Fund's investment manager as 6.66% using a Monte Carlo simulation in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected nominal returns, net of pension plan investment expense and the assumed rate of inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage. The Fund's administrator determined that 6.50% was a reasonable assumption for the long-term rate of return on plan assets based on the calculation by the Fund's investment manager. The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset class	Target allocation	Long-term expected real rate of return*
Domestic fixed income	20 %	2.7 %
International fixed income	5	4.0
Domestic large equities	35	7.5
Domestic mid equities	8	8.4
Domestic small equities	7	8.6
Global equities	10	8.2
International equities	10	8.8
Commodities	5	6.4
Total	100 %	

* Rates shown are net of the 2.50% assumed rate of inflation.

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2017

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.50%, based on the expected long-term rate of return on pension investments of 6.66%, but assuming an annual rate of inflation of 2.50%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes revenues will remain level. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate

The following table presents the net pension liability of the Fund, calculated using the discount rate of 6.50%, as well as what the Fund's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (5.50%) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.50%) than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (5.50%)</u>	<u>Current discount rate (6.50%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (7.50%)</u>
Employer's and nonemployers' net pension liability (asset)	<u>\$ 82,866,296</u>	<u>(12,005,832)</u>	<u>(90,767,484)</u>

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REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of Employers' and Nonemployers' Net Pension Liability

For the year ended June 30

(Unaudited)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Total pension liability	\$ 742,608,761	747,483,662	720,212,697	674,724,912
Plan fiduciary net position	754,614,593	689,020,910	703,535,505	698,888,740
Employers' and nonemployers' net pension liability (asset)	\$ <u>(12,005,832)</u>	<u>58,462,752</u>	<u>16,677,192</u>	<u>(24,163,828)</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	101.62%	92.18%	97.68%	103.58%
Covered payroll	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Employers' and nonemployers' net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information and accompanying independent auditor's report.

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of Changes in Employers' and Nonemployers' Net Pension Liability

For the year ended June 30

(Unaudited)

	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total pension liability:				
Service cost	\$ 15,049,173	12,825,926	13,084,414	17,889,962
Interest	52,254,836	50,242,311	47,138,110	43,876,585
Differences between expected and actual experience	(6,614,890)	(4,688,487)		
Changes of assumptions	(32,941,939)		14,576,503	
Benefit payments	(32,216,207)	(30,696,141)	(28,878,531)	(27,263,352)
Refunds of member contributions	(405,874)	(412,644)	(432,711)	(436,639)
Net change in total pension liability	(4,874,901)	27,270,965	45,487,785	34,066,556
Total pension liability - beginning	747,483,662	720,212,697	674,724,912	640,658,356
Total pension liability - ending (a)	742,608,761	747,483,662	720,212,697	674,724,912
Plan fiduciary net position:				
Contributions - nonemployer	14,004,975	14,712,821	15,340,930	15,342,296
Contributions - member	3,481,782	3,526,325	3,537,427	3,531,388
Net investment income	81,610,211	(836,587)	15,770,563	103,599,538
Miscellaneous	65,502	65,501	64,546	90,040
Benefit payments	(32,216,207)	(30,696,141)	(28,878,531)	(27,263,352)
Refund of member contributions	(405,874)	(412,644)	(432,711)	(436,639)
Administrative expense	(946,706)	(873,870)	(755,459)	(730,002)
Net change in plan fiduciary net position	65,593,683	(14,514,595)	4,646,765	94,133,269
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning	689,020,910	703,535,505	698,888,740	604,755,471
Plan fiduciary net position - ending (b)	754,614,593	689,020,910	703,535,505	698,888,740
Net pension liability (asset) - ending (a) - (b)	\$ (12,005,832)	58,462,752	16,677,192	(24,163,828)

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information and accompanying independent auditor's report.

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of Employer and Nonemployer Contributions

For the year ended June 30

(Unaudited)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Actuarially determined employer and nonemployer contribution	\$ 12,651,232	18,082,091	17,814,948	22,340,743	22,343,059	19,760,211	19,760,211	14,034,429	14,034,429	12,936,344
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	14,004,975	14,712,821	15,340,930	15,342,296	15,471,981	16,256,050	16,185,126	17,281,914	16,144,705	17,595,669
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ <u>(1,353,743)</u>	<u>3,369,270</u>	<u>2,474,018</u>	<u>6,998,447</u>	<u>6,871,078</u>	<u>3,504,161</u>	<u>3,575,085</u>	<u>(3,247,485)</u>	<u>(2,110,276)</u>	<u>(4,659,325)</u>
Covered payroll	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information and accompanying independent auditor's report.

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of Investment Returns

For the year ended June 30

(Unaudited)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of investment expense	11.91%	0.08%	2.53%	18.49%

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information and accompanying independent auditor's report.

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

June 30, 2017

(Unaudited)

Note 1: Schedule of Employers' and Nonemployers' Net Pension Liability

The components of the net pension liability as of the fiscal year end and the fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability as of that date are presented in this schedule. This trend information will be accumulated to display a ten-year presentation.

Note 2: Schedule of Changes in Employers' and Nonemployers' Net Pension Liability

Net pension liability which is measured as the total pension liability less the amount of the fiduciary net position is presented in this schedule. This trend information will be accumulated to display a ten-year presentation.

Note 3: Schedule of Employer and Nonemployer Contributions

The schedule presents the required contributions and the percentage of required contributions actually contributed.

Note 4: Schedule of Investment Returns

The schedule presents historical trend information about the annual money-weighted rate of return on plan investments, net of plan investment expense. This trend information will be accumulated to display a ten-year presentation.

Note 5: Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

Benefit changes: None

Changes of assumptions: For fiscal year 2015, the mortality table was changed to the RP-2014 Healthy Mortality Table with blue collar adjustment and generational mortality projection using Scale MP-2014 for healthy lives and to RP-2014 Disabled Retiree Mortality Table with generational mortality projection using Scale MP-2014 for disabled lives.

For fiscal year 2017, the mortality table for healthy lives was updated to the RP-2014 Healthy Mortality Table with blue collar adjustment projected with Conduent modified MP-2016 projection scale and the mortality table for disabled lives was updated to the RP-2014 Disabled Retiree Mortality Table projected with the Conduent modified MP-2016 projection scale. Also, the active retirement and termination rates were updated based on the results of an experience study covering the period June 30, 2008 through June 30, 2015. In addition, the discount rate was decreased from 7.00% to 6.50%.

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of the State of Georgia)

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

June 30, 2017

(Unaudited)

Methods and assumptions used in calculations of actuarially determined contributions: For fiscal years ending before June 30, 2015, the actuarially determined contribution in the Schedule of Employer and Nonemployer Contributions are calculated as of June 30, two years prior to the end of the fiscal year in which contributions are reported. Beginning with the June 30, 2015 fiscal year, the actuarially determined contribution is calculated as of June 30 of the prior fiscal year.

The following actuarial methods and assumptions were used to determine the most recently calculated actuarially determined contribution reported in the Schedule of Employer and Nonemployer Contributions:

Valuation date	June 30, 2016
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar, open
Remaining amortization period	30 years
Asset valuation method	Actuarial value
Inflation rate	2.5%
Salary increases	N/A
Investment rate of return	6.5%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

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**SECTION II – REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT
AUDITING STANDARDS***

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DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

270 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 1-156

Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

GREG S. GRIFFIN
STATE AUDITOR
(404) 656-2174

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Nathan Deal, Governor of Georgia
Members of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia
Board of Commissioners of the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia
Mr. Robert Carter, Secretary/Treasurer

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia (the Fund), a component unit of the State of Georgia, which include the statement of fiduciary net position as of June 30, 2017, the related statement of changes in fiduciary net position for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Fund's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 27, 2018.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Fund's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs* as FS-947-17-01 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Fund's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia's Response to Findings

The Fund's response to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs*. The Fund's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

April 27, 2018

SECTION III – SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

FS-947-17-01 Continue to Improve Internal Control Framework

Internal Control Impact: Significant Deficiency
Compliance Impact: Nonmaterial Noncompliance
Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS-947-16-01

The Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia (POAB) has not yet documented the Risk Assessment and Control Activities components of its internal control framework.

Background Information:

The State of Georgia has adopted the standards presented in the U.S. Government Accountability Office's (GAO) Green Book that provide an overall framework for establishing and maintaining an effective system of internal control. Internal control is a process that provides reasonable assurance that the objectives of the organization will be achieved. The Green Book presents internal control concepts through a hierarchical structure consisting of five components, seventeen principles, and various attributes, which are essential to the establishment of an effective system of internal control.

During the prior year audit, we noted that POAB has an informal internal control framework in place over financial reporting and compliance processes. The POAB personnel could generally describe control policies and procedures; however, controls were not consistently documented, and they were not designed based on a thorough analysis of business objectives and risks related to operational, financial reporting, and compliance requirements. During our fiscal year 2017 audit, we followed up on POAB's efforts to update, document, and monitor its system of internal control.

Criteria:

The POAB is responsible for implementing the internal control framework standards presented in the Green Book in accordance with the statewide guidance issued by the State Accounting Office (SAO), pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 5B, Article 2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) § 50-5B-4(b). The Green Book standards specify that internal control should cover all aspects of an organization's objectives, including the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, reliability of reporting for internal and external use, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Condition:

The POAB is in the process of implementing the internal control framework standards presented in the GAO Green Book. The POAB has documented the Control Environment component of its internal control framework, but has not yet finished documenting its Risk Assessment and Control Activities. Documentation for these two components was required to be submitted to SAO during fiscal year 2017 in accordance with the statewide guidance issued on August 5, 2016.

Cause:

The POAB has a small staff and did not assign sufficient resources to complete its Risk Assessment and Control Activities documentation during the year.

Effect or Potential Effect:

Without adequately documenting and implementing each component of an internal control system in accordance with the statewide guidance, management cannot ensure POAB's internal control framework will comply with the Green Book standards, or that a material misstatement of the financial statements or noncompliance with applicable statutes and regulations will be prevented, or detected and corrected in a timely manner. This may also impede management's ability to gain reasonable assurance that POAB will achieve its operational, financial reporting, and compliance objectives.

Recommendation:

The POAB should review the resources available within its existing staff to determine whether additional internal resources could be assigned to implementing the Green Book's internal control framework standards. If sufficient internal resources are not available, the POAB should consider obtaining additional resources on either a permanent or temporary basis.

The POAB should continue to implement the standards presented in the Green Book for the remaining components of its internal control framework. The documentation for those components should address all of POAB's operational, financial reporting, and compliance objectives as required by the Green Book standards.

A robust system of internal control is critical to gain assurance in meeting operational, reporting, and compliance requirements. It also serves as a way to enhance control activities, have safeguards in place to prevent or detect fraud and abuse, and gain efficiencies in operations.

Views of Responsible Officials:

We acknowledge that insufficient resources were allocated to complete documentation of this organization's Risk Assessment and Control Activities, in accordance with the guidelines provided in the Green Book. This is a deficiency that must be corrected.

SECTION IV - MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION

PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY & BENEFIT FUND OF GEORGIA

Sheriff Roger Garrison
Chairman

Post Office Box 56 • Griffin, Georgia 30224
Telephone 770-228-8461 • Fax 770-412-1236
www.poab.georgia.gov

Robert W. Carter
Secretary-Treasurer

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS – FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDING

FS-947-17-01 Continue to Improve Internal Control Framework

Internal Control Impact:	Significant Deficiency
Compliance Impact:	Nonmaterial Noncompliance
Repeat of Prior Year Finding:	FS-947-16-01

We will examine our current personnel's responsibilities to determine what, if any, resources are available to properly document this organization's Risk Assessment and Control Activities. If current resources are insufficient, we will seek out other resources to enable us to complete this documentation. We will also continue to follow the standards in the Green Book that we have already implemented.

Estimated Completion Date: February, 2019

Contact Person: Robert W. Carter
Telephone: 770-228-8461

E-mail: bcarter@rfga.us