

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2012 Regular Session
May 17, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Pearson, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 1:28 p.m. in Committee Room 2, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, Chairman
Representative Nick Lorusso, Vice Chairman
Representative Frank A. Hoffmann
Representative Paul B. Hollis
Representative Sam Jones
Representative Anthony "Tony" V. Ligi
Representative Jack Montoucet
Representative Edward J. Price
Representative Eugene "Gene" Reynolds
Representative Alan Seabaugh
Representative Kirk Talbot
Representative Jeff R. Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Stephanie Little, Committee Attorney
Ms. Malerie Cacibauda, Committee Secretary
Mr. Bryan Vincent, Division Director
Ms. Trinesha Wade, Clerk
Ms. Joyce Anthony, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION

Senate Bill No. 7 by Senator Guillory

Senator Guillory presented Senate Bill No. 7, which, relative to the Municipal Employees' Retirement System, provides for a 60-month final compensation for all active members first hired after June 30, 2006, and to provide for calculation of additional benefits following participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan.

Representative Jones asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Mr. Bob Rust, representing the Municipal Employees' Retirement System, 7937 Office Park Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4810, spoke in support of the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of and in opposition to the bill but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit A)

Representative Pearson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 7 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 7 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, and Reynolds voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 9 by Senator Guillory

On behalf of Senator Guillory, Mr. Bob Rust presented Senate Bill No. 9, which provides relative to employee contributions of members of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

Representatives Pearson and Jones asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Mr. Bob Rust, representing the Municipal Employees' Retirement System, 7937 Office Park Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4810, spoke in support of the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of the bill but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit B)

Representative Pearson offered a set of technical amendments. Representative Pearson offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, and Reynolds voted yea.

Representative Pearson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 9 with amendments, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 9 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representative Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, and Reynolds voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 36 by Senator Guillory

On behalf of Senator Guillory, Mr. Bob Rust presented Senate Bill No. 36, which provides for compliance with federal tax qualification requirements, relative to the Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

Mr. Bob Rust, representing the Municipal Employees' Retirement System, 7937 Office Park Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4810, spoke in support of the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of the bill but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit C)

Representative Pearson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 36 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 36 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 49 by Senator Guillory

On behalf of Senator Guillory, Mr. Bob Rust presented Senate Bill No. 49, which provides for a second tier of benefits for persons employed on or after January 1, 2013, relative to the Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

Representatives Jones and Pearson asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Mr. Bob Rust, representing the Municipal Employees' Retirement System, 7937 Office Park Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4810, spoke in support of the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of the bill but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit D)

Representative Pearson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 49 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 49 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 12 by Senator Guillory

Senator Guillory presented Senate Bill No. 12, which provides for a 60-month average compensation for active employees, relative to the Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System.

Representatives Jones and Pearson asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Mr. Gary Curran, representing the G.S. Curran & Company, Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Pl., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, and Ms. Lorraine C. Dees, representing the Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System, P.O. Box 57, Jennings, LA 70546, (800) 510-8515, spoke to provide information on the bill.

A copy of a witness card of one person present to provide information but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit E)

Representative Jones offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 12 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 12 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 14 by Senator Guillory

Senator Guillory presented Senate Bill No. 14, which provides relative to the calculation of benefits of members of the Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System.

Representative Jones asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Mr. Gary Curran, representing the G.S. Curran & Company, Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Pl., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke to provide information on the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons present to provide information but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit F)

Representative Jones offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 14 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 14 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 38 by Senator Guillory

Senator Guillory presented Senate Bill No. 38, which provides Tier 2 benefits for members of the Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System employed on or after January 1, 2013.

Representative Jones asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Ms. Lorraine C. Dees, representing the Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System, P.O. Box 57, Jennings, LA 70546, (800) 510-8515, spoke to provide information on the bill.

A copy of a witness card of a person present to provide information but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit G)

Representative Jones offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 38 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 38 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 16 by Senator Cortez

Senator Guillory presented Senate Bill No. 16, which provides relative to education for trustees of certain public retirement system boards.

No one spoke in support of or in opposition to Senate Bill No. 16. There was no further discussion on the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of and present to provide information but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit H)

Representative Pearson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 16 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 16 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 22 by Senator Guillory

Senator Guillory presented Senate Bill No. 22, which provides for membership of part-time employees, relative to the Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund.

Mr. Osey McGee, Jr., representing the Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, 1225 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-0500, spoke in favor of the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of the bill but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit I)

Representative Jones offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 22 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 22 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 37 by Senator Guillory

On Senator Guillory's behalf, Mr. Osey McGee, Jr., presented Senate Bill No. 37, which provides for surviving spouse annuities, relative to the Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund.

Mr. Osey McGee, Jr., representing the Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, 1225 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-0500, spoke in favor of the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of the bill but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit J)

Representative Jones offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 37 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 37 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 35 by Senator Guillory

On Senator Guillory's behalf, Mr. Bob Tarcza presented Senate Bill No. 35, which provides for continued compliance with present federal law, relative to the Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund members.

Representative Jones asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Mr. Bob Tarcza, representing the Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, 228 St. Charles Ave., Ste. 1310, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 525-6696, spoke in favor of the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of the bill but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit K)

Representative Jones offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 35 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 35 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 47 by Senator Guillory

On Senator Guillory's behalf, Ms. Rina Thomas presented Senate Bill No. 47, which provides relative to final average compensation for certain members of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Representative Pearson offered a set of amendments to remove language allowing members to opt out of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System optional retirement plan and to opt back into the defined benefits plan, to require the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee to approve delayed implementation of the act, and to change the date by which a lawsuit must be filed in order to delay such implementation. Representative Pearson offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Representatives Pearson, Jones, Thompson, Montoucet, and Hoffmann asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Ms. Rina Thomas, representing the Office of the Governor, (no additional information provided), and Ms. Elizabeth Murrill, representing the Office of the Governor (no address provided), (225) 342-8212, spoke in support of the bill.

Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, and Mr. Frank Jobert, Jr., representing the Retired State Employees' Association, 9412 Common St., Ste. 7, Baton Rouge, LA, 70809, spoke in opposition of the bill.

Mr. Robert Klausner, representing the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, 4433 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115, (954) 916-1202; Ms. Maureen Wegard, representing the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, P.O. Box 94123, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 925-6454; and Ms. Cindy Rougeou, representing the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, 8401 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-0604; spoke to provide information for the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of, in opposition to, and to provide information for the bill but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit L)

Representative Lorusso offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 47 with amendments, to which Representative Jones objected. The secretary called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 47 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas, and 2 nays. Representatives Hoffmann, Hollis, Ligi, Lorusso, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea; Representatives Jones and Montoucet voted nay.

Senate Bill No. 740 by Senator Guillory

On Senator Guillory's behalf, Ms. Rina Thomas presented Senate Bill No. 740, which provides relative to the experience accounts of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Representatives Jones, Hoffmann, Price, and Pearson asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Ms. Rina Thomas, representing the Office of the Governor, (no additional information provided), spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Graig A. Luscombe, representing the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association, Inc., 9412 Common St., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 927-8837, and Mr. Frank Jobert, Jr., representing the Retired State Employees' Association, 9412 Common St., Ste. 7, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (504) 289-9424, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Mr. Robert Klausner, representing the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, 4433 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115, (954) 916-1202; Mr. Steven Procopio, representing the Division of Administration, 7th Floor, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000; and Mr. Charles Hall, representing the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System, and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, 1624 LaSalle Parc Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 928-7866; spoke to provide information for the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of, in opposition to, and present to provide information for the bill but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit M)

Representative Jones offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 740, to which Representative Thompson objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Hoffmann, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds voted yea; Representatives Hollis, Ligi, Lorusso, Pearson, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted nay.

Representative Pearson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 740 favorably, to which Representative Jones objected. The secretary called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 740 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Hoffmann, Hollis, Ligi, Lorusso, Pearson, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea; Representatives Jones, Montoucet, Price, and Reynolds voted nay.

House Bill No. 31 by Representative Arnold

On behalf of Representative Arnold, Mr. Randy Roche presented House Bill No. 31, which provides relative to the New Orleans Harbor Police Retirement System.

Mr. Frank Jobert, Jr., representing the Harbor Police Retirement System, #1 3rd St. Wharf, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 289-9424, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Randy Roche, representing the Harbor Police, 12021 Lake Sherwood South, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 933-2727, spoke to provide information for the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of the bill but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit N)

Representative Pearson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 31 favorably, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 31 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 624 by Senator Murray

On behalf of Senator Murray, Representative Pearson presented Senate Bill No. 624, which provides relative to reemployment of retirees, relative to the Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund.

No one spoke in support of or in opposition to Senate Bill No. 624. There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Pearson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 624 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 624 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 22 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 22, which provides relative to retirement benefits of adult probation and parole officers in the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System.

Representative Montoucet offered a set of amendments to require the state to pay any unpaid amortization or cost payments. Representative Montoucet offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Representatives Montoucet, Price, Jones, Thompson, and Ligi asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Ms. Maris LeBlanc, representing the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, 8401 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-2900, and Mr. Thomas Bickham, representing the Department of Corrections, 504 Mayflower St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (no phone number provided), spoke to provide information for the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of, in opposition to, and present to provide information for the bill but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit O)

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report House Bill No. 22 with amendments, to which Representative Thompson objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 22 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Hoffmann, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Price, and Reynolds voted yea; Representatives Hollis and Thompson voted nay; and Representative Pearson abstained.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for discussion.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Kevin Pearson, Chairman

Date approved: _____

/mcc