

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2013 Regular Session
April 18, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, Chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. in Room 4, 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 Chair
Representative Frank A. Hoffmann
Representative Paul Hollis
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Sam Jones
Representative Jack Montoucet
Representative Edward J. Price
Representative H. Eugene Reynolds
Representative Alan Seabaugh
Representative Kirk Talbot
Representative Jeff R. Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stephanie Little, Attorney
Malerie Cacibauda, Secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Brittany Sylvester, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 22 by Representative Danahay

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 22, which provides relative to the calculation of final average compensation in the Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

A copy of a witness card of one person in support of the bill but not speaking is attached. (See Exhibit A.)

Representative Pearson offered a set of amendments to change the anti-spiking provisions for persons hired on or after July 1, 2006, from a 125% cap to a 115% cap. Representative Pearson offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hollis, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report House Bill No. 22 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hollis, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 36 by Representative Danahay

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 36, which provides relative to the transfer of service credit into the Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

A copy of witness cards of one person in support of the bill but not speaking and of one person who would provide information if requested is attached. (See Exhibit B.)

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report House Bill No. 36 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hollis, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to place House Bill No. 36 on the local & consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hollis, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 38 by Representative Greene

Representative Greene presented House Bill No. 38, which provides relative to employee contributions in the Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System.

Ms. Lorraine Dees, Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System, P.O. Box 57, Jennings, LA 70546, 800-510-8515, spoke in favor of the bill.

A copy of witness cards of one person in support of the bill but not speaking and of one person who would to provide information if requested is attached. (See Exhibit C.)

Representative Price offered a motion to report House Bill No. 38 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hollis, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Representative Price offered a motion to place House Bill No. 38 on the local & consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hollis, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 25 by Representative Pierre

Representative Pierre presented House Bill No. 25, which provides for the conversion of unused sick and annual leave to retirement credit for members of the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Representative Pearson offered a set of amendments to provide that employees of a participating employer shall have the option to, rather than be eligible to, convert leave pursuant to proposed law, to require the FRS board to promulgate rules relative to billing and payments for the conversion mechanism in proposed law, and to make technical changes. Representative Pearson offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Representatives Talbot, Thompson, and Montoucet asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Mr. Michael Sands, Lafayette City Parish Government, 705 W. University Avenue, Lafayette, LA 70506, 337-344-2288; and Mr. Steven Stockstill, Firefighters' Retirement System, 3100 Brentwood Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, 70809, 225-925-4060, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Greg Curran, actuary, 10555 N. Glenstone Pl., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, provided information for the bill.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report House Bill No. 25 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 39 by Representative Stuart Bishop

Representative Stuart Bishop presented House Bill No. 39, which provides relative to retirement eligibility and benefits for new members of the La. Assessors' Retirement System.

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

Mr. James Laurent, Louisiana Assessors' Association, (no address provided), Baton Rouge, LA, 225-240-9974, spoke in favor of the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of the bill but not speaking and of one person who would to provide information if requested is attached. (See Exhibit D.)

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 39 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hoffmann, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 58 by Representative Foil

On behalf of Representative Foil, Representative Lorusso and Ms. Denise Akers, Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System, presented House Bill No. 58, which provides relative to the definition of "employee" for the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Ms. Denise Akers, 8280 YMCA Plaza Dr., Bldg. 8-C, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, 225-767-1003, spoke in favor of the bill.

A copy of witness cards of one person in support of the bill but not speaking and of one person who would provide information if requested is attached. (See Exhibit E.)

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 58 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hoffmann, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, and Talbot voted yea.

House Bill No. 46 by Representative Price

Representative Price presented House Bill No. 46, which authorizes a cost-of-living adjustment for certain retirees of the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System and their beneficiaries.

Representative Price offered a set of amendments to provide that the authorization for granting a cost of living adjustment (COLA) in proposed law be a one-time authorization, to require the cost of the proposed COLA not exceed the funds in the experience account, to require the legislative actuary to review the determination of the system's actuary regarding funding the COLA. In addition, the amendments prohibit a COLA from being granted until the legislative actuary and the system actuary agree on a determination. Representative Price offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, and Talbot voted yea.

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

Mr. Charles Bujol, Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System, 8660 United Plaza Boulevard, First Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, 225-925-6486, provided information for the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of the bill but not speaking and of those who would provide information if requested is attached. (See Exhibit F.)

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 46 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 37 by Representative Nancy Landry

On behalf of Representative Nancy Landry, Ms. Lorraine Dees, Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System, presented House Bill No. 37, which requires promulgation of actuarial assumptions by the board of trustees for the Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Ms. Lorraine Dees, Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System, P.O. Box 57, Jennings, LA 70546, 800-510-8515, spoke in favor of the bill.

A copy of witness cards of one person in support of the bill but not speaking and of one person who would provide information if requested is attached. (See Exhibit G.)

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report House Bill No. 37 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann,

Hollis, Ivey, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 54 by Representative Jones

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 54, which provides relative to the collection and enforcement of ad valorem tax proceeds due to the Registrar of Voters Employees' Retirement System.

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

Ms. Lorraine Dees, Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System, P.O. Box 57, Jennings, LA 70546, 800-510-8515, spoke in favor of the bill.

A copy of witness cards of one person in support of the bill but not speaking and of one person who would to provide information if requested is attached. (See Exhibit H.)

Representative Price offered a motion to report House Bill No. 54 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 56 by Representative Jones

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 56, which provides for a divided benefit for members of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System when certain earnings increases occur.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

A copy of witness cards of one person in opposition to the bill but not speaking and of persons who would like to provide information if requested is attached. (See Exhibit I.)

Representative Jones voluntarily deferred the bill.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Representative Price offered a motion to adopt committee minutes from the 2012 Regular Session as follows: March 15, 2012, March 29, 2012, April 12, 2012, April 19, 2012, April 26, 2012, May 3, 2012, May 17, 2012, and May 23, 2012. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Jones, Montoucet, Price, Reynolds, Seabaugh, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Kevin Pearson, Chairman
House Committee on Retirement

Date Approved: