

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2013 Regular Session
May 8, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, Chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 5:23 PM 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 Paul Hollis
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Sam Jones
Representative Jack Montoucet
Representative Edward J. Price
Representative H. Eugene Reynolds
Representative Kirk Talbot

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Frank A. Hoffmann
Representative Alan Seabaugh
Representative Jeff R. Thompson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stephanie Little, Attorney
Malerie Cacibauda, Secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Mattie Franklin, Sergeant at Arms
Beverly Vincent, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 56 by Representative Jones

House Bill No. 56, which provides for a divided benefit for members of the Municipal Employees' Retirement system when certain earnings increases occur, was not addressed at the meeting.

House Bill No. 20 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 20, which provides for a five-year Deferred Retirement Option Plan for certain members of the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Representatives Ivey, Jones, and Hollis asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Speaking in support of the bill was Mr. Stacy Birdwell, Firefighters' Retirement System, (no address provided), (318) 470-1316.

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

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 20 favorably, to which Representative Ivey objected. The secretary called the roll and by a vote of 4 yeas and 5 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Jones, Montoucet, Price, and Reynolds voted yea. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hollis, Ivey, and Talbot voted nay.

House Bill No. 35 by Representative Barrow

Representative Barrow presented House Bill No. 35, which provides for retirement eligibility of employees of state hospitals under certain conditions.

Representative Jones offered a set of amendments to allow employees affected by proposed law to buy air time for purposes of eligibility. Representative Jones offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which Representative Pearson objected. The secretary called the roll, and by a vote of 3 yeas and 6 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Jones, Montoucet, and Price voted yea. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hollis, Ivey, Reynolds, and Talbot voted nay.

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

Speaking in support of the bill was Mr. K. Brad Ott, Advocates for Louisiana Public Healthcare, P.O. Box 71221, New Orleans, LA 70172, (505) 810-3919.

Speaking to provide information for the bill were Mr. Maureen H. Westgard, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, 8401 United Plaza Blvd./P.O. Box 94123, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 925-6454; Ms. Cindy Rougeou, Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, 8401 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-0604; and Ms. Shelley Johnson, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, (225) 921-0074.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of the bill but not speaking and of one person in opposition to the bill but not speaking is attached. (See Exhibit B.)

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 35 favorably, to which Representative Ivey objected. The secretary called the roll, and by a vote of 3 yeas and 6 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Jones, Montoucet, and Price voted yea. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hollis, Ivey, Reynolds, and Talbot voted nay.

House Bill No. 53 by Representative Seabaugh

On behalf of Representative Seabaugh, Representative Talbot presented House Bill No. 53, which removes certain members from eligibility for membership in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and provides for a refund of employee contributions to those members.

Representative Pearson offered an amendment in the form of a substitute bill to prohibit membership in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana for employees hired on or after July 1, 2013. Representative Pearson offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, Montoucet, Reynolds, and Talbot voted yea.

Representative Pearson offered a set of amendments to the substitute bill to change the date before which an employee must be hired in order not to be affected by the proposed law from July 1, 2013 to September 1, 2013. Representative Pearson offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, Montoucet, Reynolds, and Talbot voted yea.

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

Speaking to provide information for the bill was Mr. Shane Riddle, Louisiana Association of Educators State Staff Organization, 8322 One Calais Pl., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (no phone number provided).

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

Representative Talbot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 53 by substitute, to which Representative Jones objected. The secretary called the roll and the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hollis, Ivey, Price, Reynolds, and Talbot voted yea. Representatives Jones and Montoucet voted nay.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Kevin Pearson, Chairman
House Committee on Retirement

Date approved: _____

/mcc