

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2013 Regular Session
May 22, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, Chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM 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 Jack Montoucet
Representative H. Eugene Reynolds
Representative Kirk Talbot
Representative Jeff R. Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Sam Jones
Representative Edward J. Price
Representative Alan Seabaugh

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stephanie Little, Attorney
Malerie Cacibauda, Secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Mattie Franklin, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 3 by Senator Johns

Senator Johns presented Senate Bill No. 3, which provides for participation by the West Calcasieu Community Center and the Vinton Public Power Authority employees in the Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

A copy of witness cards of persons who would provide information if requested is attached. (See Exhibit A.)

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 3 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hoffmann, Ivey, Montoucet, Reynolds, and Talbot voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 2 by Senator Peacock

Senator Peacock presented Senate Bill No. 2, which provides for board membership of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

A copy of a witness card of one person who would provide information if requested is attached. (See Exhibit B.)

Representative Pearson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 2 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Hoffmann, Ivey, Montoucet, Reynolds, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 259 by Senator Peacock

Senator Peacock presented Senate Bill No. 259, which provides relative to benefits for members of the Firefighters' Retirement System hired on or after January 1, 2014.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to involuntarily defer the bill but withdrew his motion before a vote was taken.

Speaking in opposition to the bill was Mr. Chad Major, Professional Firefighters Association, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, (225) 572-8483; and Mr. Steven Stockstill, Firefighters Retirement System, 3100 Brentwood Drive., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060.

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

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

Representative Pearson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 259 favorably, to which Representative Montoucet objected. The secretary called the roll and by a vote of 3 yeas and 4 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Pearson, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea. Representatives Lorusso, Ivey, Montoucet, and Reynolds voted nay.

Senate Bill No. 13 by Senator Long

Senator Long presented Senate Bill No. 13, which provides for powers and duties of the board of trustees of the State Police Retirement System.

Following Senator Long's presentation of the bill, the committee recessed from 10:04 a.m. until 10:19 a.m., and discussion of the bill resumed.

Speaking in support of the bill was Mr. Irwin Phelps, Louisiana State Police Retirement System, 9224 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 295-8400.

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

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 13 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hollis, Ivey, Montoucet, Reynolds, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 16 by Senator Long

Senator Long presented Senate Bill No. 16, which provides for the definition of "regular retirement plan" for higher education employees participating in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Representative Pearson offered a set of amendments to do as follows:

1. To remove proposed law that set the Optional Retirement Plan's contribution rate equal to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana's aggregate normal cost rate.
2. To authorize each postsecondary education board created by the constitution to set the Optional Retirement Plan contribution rate each year within a particular range.

3. To provide that for Optional Retirement Plan members who are not employed by postsecondary education institutions or agencies, the contribution rate shall be equal to the Tier 1 normal cost contribution.
4. To provide that for the year in which the Cash Balance Plan becomes effective, the boards must report their contribution rate to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana Economic Development;
 - (6) John White (or designee), State Superintendent, Louisiana Department of Education; and