

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2014 Regular Session
April 30, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:09 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 Gregory A. Miller
Representative Jack Montoucet
Representative Edward J. Price
Representative H. Eugene Reynolds

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kirk Talbot

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stephanie Little, Committee Attorney
Shawn O'Brien, Committee Secretary
Catherine Collins, Sergeant at Arms
Cheryl Forrest, Sergeant at Arms
Andrew Hoz, Committee Clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Paul T. Richmond, Actuarial Services Manager,
Office of the Legislative Auditor

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 31 by Representative Jones

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 31, which provides a permanent benefit increase paid from the experience account to certain retired members and beneficiaries of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Mr. Graig Luscombe, Louisiana Retired Teachers Assn., 9412 Common St., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-927-8837, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Tom Tate, Louisiana Association of Educators (LAE), 8322 One Calais St., Baton Rouge, LA; Ms. M.P. Wray, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA; Mr. Shane Riddle and Ms. Debbie Meaux, LAE, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, 343-9243; Ms. Gretchen Lampe, LAE, 300 Washington, St., #100A, Monroe, LA; 318-387-0536; and Ms. Judy McShea, St. Bernard Association of Educators, 2815 Delile St., Chalmette, LA, 504-232-2815, submitted cards indicating their support for the bill.

Ms. Maureen Westgard, director, Teachers' Retirement System of La., 8401 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA, submitted a card for information and stated that the TRSL board supports House Bill No. 31.

Mr. Ben Huxen, representing the commissioner of administration, (no address provided), 225-342-1046, informed the committee that the commissioner favors the various Senate bills over the House bills that are tied to House Bill No. 1225 relative to COLA's due to savings included in the former.

Representative Jones requested amendments to track the language from the respective Senate Bills referred to by the representative of the administration, which Representative Pearson said would not be allowed by committee practice precluding in-concept amendments.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report House Bill No. 31 favorably, to which Representative Pearson objected. A roll call vote was taken and by a vote of 4 yeas and 4 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Hoffmann, Jones, Montoucet, and Price voted yea. Representatives Pearson, Ivey, Lorusso, and Miller voted nay.

There was no final action taken on the bill.

House Bill No. 30 by Representative Jones

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 30, which provides a permanent benefit increase paid from the experience account to certain retired members and beneficiaries of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System.

Mr. Frank Jobert, Jr., RSEA, 9412 Common St., Suite 7, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-930-0961, spoke in support of the bill.

Mr. Ed Parker, AFSCME, 429 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 225-925-2800; Mr. Tom Tate, LAE, 8322 One Calais St., Baton Rouge, LA; Ms. Debbie Meaux, LAE, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-343-9243; and Ms. Ayn Stehr, National Association of Social Workers, 18906 Spyglass Hill, Baton Rouge, LA, submitted cards indicating their support for the measure.

Ms. Cindy Rougeau, LASERS, 8401 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-922-0604, submitted a card for information indicating that the LASERS board supports House Bill No. 30.

Mr. Ben Huxen, representing the commissioner of administration (no address provided), 225-342-1046, informed the committee that the administration prefers the Senate package of bills over the House package relative to COLA's.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report House Bill No. 30 favorably, to which Representative Ivey objected. A roll call vote was taken and by a vote of 4 yeas and 4 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Hoffmann, Jones, Montoucet, and Price voted yea. Representatives Pearson, Ivey, Lorusso, and Miller voted nay.

There was no final action taken on the bill.

House Bill No. 34 by Representative Jones

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 34, which provides a supplemental benefit increase to qualifying retirees and beneficiaries of the La. State Employees' Retirement System, but requested that the bill be rescheduled for hearing at a subsequent meeting.

Ms. Ayn Stehr, National Association of Social Workers, 18906 Spyglass Hill, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-241-0947, and Mr. Frank Jobert, Jr., RSEA, 9412 Common St., Suite 7, Baton Rouge, LA 225-930-0961, submitted cards indicating their support for the measure.

Ms. Cindy Rougeau, LASERS, 8401 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-922-0604, submitted a card for information indicating that the LASERS board supports House Bill No. 34.

Mr. Ben Huxen, representing the commissioner of administration (no address provided), 225-342-1046, submitted a card for information but did not testify.

Representative Jones offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 34. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 34 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Ivey, Jones, Lorusso, Miller, Montoucet, and Price voted yea.

House Bill No. 35 by Representative Jones

House Bill No. 35 provides a supplemental benefit increase to certain qualifying retirees and beneficiaries of the La. School Employees' Retirement System.

There was no discussion on the bill. Representative Jones requested that the bill be rescheduled for hearing at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Ben Huxen, representing the commissioner of administration (no address provided), 225-342-1046; and Mr. Charles Bujol, Louisiana School Employees Retirement System, 8660 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA, were present to provide information.

Ms. M.P. Wray, LFT, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, was present in support.

Representative Jones offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 35. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 35 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Ivey, Jones, Lorusso, Miller, Montoucet, and Price voted yea.

House Bill No. 36 by Representative Jones

House Bill No. 36 provides a supplemental benefit increase to qualifying retirees and beneficiaries of the State Police Retirement System.

There was no discussion on the bill. Representative Jones requested that the bill be rescheduled for hearing at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Joe Mapes, Fraternal Order of Police, 731 Lakeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA; and Mr. David Young, La. State Troopers Association, 8120 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA, were present in support.

Mr. Irwin Felps, Louisiana State Police Retirement System, 9224 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA; and Mr. Ben Huxen, representing the commissioner of administration (no address provided), 225-342-1046, were present to provide information.

Representative Jones offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 36. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 36 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Ivey, Jones, Lorusso, Miller, Montoucet, and Price voted yea.

House Bill No. 33 by Representative Jones

House Bill No. 33 provides a permanent benefit increase paid from the experience account to certain retired members and beneficiaries of the La. School Employees' Retirement System.

There was no discussion on the bill. Representative Jones requested that the bill be rescheduled for hearing at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Shane Riddle and Ms. Debbie Meaux, Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, 343-9243; Ms. Gretchen Lampe, LAE, 300 Washington, St., #100A, Monroe, LA, 318-387-0536; Ms. M.P. Wray, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA; and Ms. Ayn Stehr, National Association of Social Workers, 18906 Spyglass Hill, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-241-0947, were present in support.

Mr. Charles Bujol, Louisiana School Employees Retirement System, 8660 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA, and Mr. Ben Huxen, representing the commissioner of administration (no address provided), 225-342-1046, were present for information.

Representative Jones offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 33. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 33 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Ivey, Jones, Lorusso, Miller, Montoucet, and Price voted yea.

House Bill No. 32 by Representative Jones

House Bill No. 32 provides a permanent benefit increase paid from the experience account to certain retired members and beneficiaries of the State Police Retirement System.

There was no discussion on the bill. Representative Jones requested that the bill be rescheduled for hearing at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Joe Mapes, Fraternal Order of Police, 731 Lakeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA; Mr. David Young, La. State Troopers Association, 8120 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA; and Mr. Tom Tate, LAE, 8322 One Calais St., Baton Rouge, LA, were present in support of the bill.

Mr. Irwin Felps, LSPRS, 9224 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA; and Mr. Ben Huxen, with the division of administration (no address provided), 225-342-1046, were present for information.

Representative Jones offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 32. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 32 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Ivey, Jones, Lorusso, Miller, Montoucet, and Price voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the committee.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Montoucet introduced Future Farmers of America students visiting from his district.

Following a recess upon completion of all other business, Representative Pearson announced that in the absence of the author, House Bill No. 84 and House Bill No. 85 would be passed over.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Ivey offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, adjourn by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, Lorusso, Miller, Montoucet, Price, and Reynolds voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Kevin Pearson, Chairman
House Committee on Retirement

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Date Approved: _____

The committee has acknowledged on April 22, 2015, that these minutes were prepared in accordance with the rules of the House of Representatives.