

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2014 Regular Session
May 7, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:37 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 Sam Jones
Representative Gregory A. Miller
Representative Jack Montoucet
Representative Edward J. Price
Representative H. Eugene Reynolds
Representative Kirk Talbot

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Barry Ivey

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 94 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 94, which provides relative to the minimum retirement age, accrual rate, and benefits for new members of the Firefighters' Pension and Relief Fund in the city of New Orleans hired after January 1, 2015.

Mr. Nicholas Felton, president, New Orleans Fire Fighters, 3520 General DeGaulle Dr., New Orleans, LA 70114, 504-366-8564, provided information on the bill.

Mr. Michael Myers, Red River United, 1726 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA 71101, 318-424-4579, submitted a witness card in opposition to the bill.

Representative Lorusso offered a motion to report House Bill No. 94 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 94 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Lorusso, Miller, Montoucet, Reynolds, and Talbot voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 4 by Senator Peacock

Senator Peacock presented Senate Bill No. 4, which provides benefits for members hired on or after January 1, 2015.

Courtney Baker, LABI, 3113 Valley Creek Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-928-5388; and Mr. Richard Bremer, Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, 400 Edwards St., Shreveport, LA 71101, 318-677-2523, submitted witness cards in support of the bill.

Mr. Chad Major, Professional Fire Fighters Association (PFFA), (address illegible), Baton Rouge, LA, 225-572-8483, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Ms. Barbara Sellers, PFFA/Shreveport Firefighters, 222 LaFitte Rd., Bossier City, LA, 318-272-9229, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Mr. Stacy Birdwell, Firefighters Retirement System, 9021 Aurora (address incomplete), testified in opposition to the bill.

Mr. Ed Parker, AFSCME, 429 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 225-927-2800; Mr. Mike Myers, Red River United, 1726 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA 71101, 318-424-4579; Mr. Shane Spillman, Firefighters, (no address provided); Mr. Perry Jeselink, Monroe Firefighters, 2500 Bonita Pl., Monroe, LA, 318-614-7798; Mr. Ricky Campbell, PFFA (address illegible), Baton Rouge, LA 70811, 225-354-1400; Mr. Bennie Ouber, PFFA, 1106 West Shore Dr., Alexandria, LA; Mr. David Watkins and Mr. Nick Felton, New Orleans Fire Fighters, 3520 Gen. DeGaulle Dr., New Orleans, LA, 504-366-8564; Mr. Doug Watts, United Steelworkers (no address provided), 985-320-2788; and Ms. Cynthia Posey, La. Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, submitted witness cards in opposition to the bill but did not speak.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 4, to which Representative Talbot objected. A roll call vote was taken and action on Senate Bill No. 4 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 5 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Hoffmann, Jones, Montoucet, Price, and Reynolds voted yea. Representatives Pearson, Lorusso, Miller, and Talbot voted nay.

Senate Bill No. 14 by Senator Guillory

Senator Guillory presented Senate Bill No. 14, which provides for the determination of liabilities of the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System and the payment therefor.

Mr. Charles P. Bujol, executive director, La. School Employees' Retirement System (LSERS) 8660 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, informed the committee that the LSERS board is in support of the bill.

Ms. Lauren Bailey, executive counsel, LSERS, 8660 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, submitted a witness card for information.

Mr. Jim Malohn, St. Charles Parish School Board, 13855 River Road, Luling, LA 70070, 985-785-6112, spoke in support of the bill.

Patrice Pujol, Superintendents' Association, 11837 Home Port Drive, Maurepas, LA, 225-715-4588; Ms. Markey Pierre', La. School Boards Association, 401 Market St., Suite 550, Shreveport, LA, 318-675-0116; Mr. Scott Richard, La. School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-769-3191; Mr. Dannie P. Garrett, La. School Boards Association, 263 Third St., #707, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-382-0333; and Mr. Shane Riddle, LAE, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-343-9243, submitted cards in support of the bill but did not testify.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 14 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 14 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Jones, Lorusso, Miller, Montoucet, and Reynolds voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 20 by Senator Guillory

Senator Guillory presented Senate Bill No. 20, which provides for compliance with federal tax qualification standards.

Mr. Jim Malohn, St. Charles Parish School Board, 13855 River Road, Luling, LA 70070, 985-785-6112; Mr. Dannie P. Garrett, La. School Boards Association, 263 Third St., #707, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-382-0333; Mr. Shane Riddle, LAE, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-343-9243; and Mr. Graig Luscombe, La. Retired Teachers Assn., Inc., submitted cards in support of the bill but did not testify.

Ms. Maureen H. Westgard, director, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL), 8401 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-925-6454; and Ms. Terry Mumford, TRSL/Ice Muller LLP, One

American Square, #2900, Indianapolis, IN 36282, 317-236-2110, informed the committee that the system is in support of the bill and provided additional information.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 20 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 20 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Lorusso, Miller, Montoucet, and Reynolds voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 24 by Senator Guillory

Senator Guillory presented Senate Bill No. 24, which, relative to the Sheriffs Pension and Relief Fund, provides for designations and terms of office for members of the board of trustees.

Mr. Michael Ranatza, La. Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-343-8402, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Skip McGee, La. Sheriffs Pension Fund, 1225 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 225-219-0500; and Mr. Gary Bennet, La. Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-343-8402, submitted cards in favor of the bill but did not testify.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 24 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 24 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Lorusso, Miller, Montoucet, and Reynolds voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 25 by Senator Guillory

Senator Guillory presented Senate Bill No. 25, which provides for administration of the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System (LSERS).

Mr. Charles P. Bujol, executive director, and Ms. Lauren Bailey, executive counsel, LSERS, 8660 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, informed the committee that the LSERS board is in support of the bill.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 25 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 25 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Lorusso, Miller, Montoucet, and Reynolds voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the committee.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 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.