

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
March 24, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 Jack Montoucet, vice chairman
Representative Mark Abraham
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Paul Hollis
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Sam Jones
Representative Gregory A. Miller

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Annie Smith, attorney
Linda Hopkins, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Beverly Hurst, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 23 by Representative Reynolds

Representative Reynolds presented House Bill No. 23, which requires the Municipal Employees' Retirement System to establish rules and regulations governing certain procedures relative to the election of trustees to the system board.

Warren Ponder, acting director for Municipal Employees' Retirement System of LA, 3793 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4810, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 23.

Gary Curran, actuary, G. S. Curran & Company, Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 23.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report House Bill No. 23 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 23 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

House Bill No. 34 by Representative Reynolds

Representative Reynolds presented House Bill No. 34, which provides that all mayors are members of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

Warren Ponder, acting director for Municipal Employees' Retirement System of LA, 3793 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4810, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 34.

Gary Curran, actuary, G. S. Curran & Company, Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 34.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report House Bill No. 34 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 34 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

House Bill No. 40 by Representative Reynolds

Representative Reynolds presented House Bill No. 40, which provides relative to the reemployment of retirees in the Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

Warren Ponder, acting director for Municipal Employees' Retirement System of LA, 3793 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4810, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 40.

Gary Curran, actuary, G. S. Curran & Company, Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 40.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 40 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 40 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

House Bill No. 12 by Representative Pearson

Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 12, which provides that the state treasurer and the commissioner of administration, or their designees, serve as voting members of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System board of trustees.

Warren Ponder, acting director for Municipal Employees' Retirement System of LA, 3793 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4810, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 12.

Gary Curran, actuary, G. S. Curran & Company, Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 12.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 12 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 12 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, and Jones voted yea.

House Bill No. 17 by Representative Pearson

Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 17, relative to the Municipal Employees' Retirement System, which authorizes the Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority to participate in the system.

Warren Ponder, acting director for Municipal Employees' Retirement System of LA, 3793 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4810, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 17.

Gary Curran, actuary, G. S. Curran & Company, Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 17.

Ty Carlos, executive director, Louisiana Community Development Authority, 5420 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 205, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 924-6150, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 17.

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 17 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 17 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, and Jones voted yea.

House Bill No. 22 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 22, which establishes a funding deposit account for the Firefighters' Retirement System and authorizes the board of trustees of the system to modify required employer contribution rates in certain circumstances and within certain limits in order to fund the account.

Steven Stockstill, director, Firefighters' Retirement System, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 22.

Gary Curran, actuary, G. S. Curran & Company, Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 22.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to relieve FRS of present law restrictions on its authority to use funds collected in excess of minimum required employer contribution rates to reduce liabilities; and to make technical changes. Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 22 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 22 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 24 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 24, which provides that a member of the Firefighters' Retirement System is not eligible for disability retirement benefits if his disability is indirectly a result of a preexisting condition.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 24 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 24 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support; and 2 to provide information only if requested. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 25 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 25, which provides relative to the reemployment of retirees of the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Steven Stockstill, representing the Firefighters' Retirement System board of trustees, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 25.

Gary Curran, actuary, G. S. Curran & Company, Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 25.

Stacy Birdwell, representing Firefighters' Retirement System board of trustees, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060, spoke in support of House Bill No. 25.

Representative Jones offered amendments to add a provision specifying that contributions resume only if the employee is reemployed on a full-time basis. Representative Jones offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report House Bill No. 25 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 25 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

House Bill No. 26 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 26, which provides relative to appeals of certain disability eligibility decisions in the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Representative Pearson offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Pearson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Steven Stockstill, representing the Firefighters' Retirement System board of trustees, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 26.

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 26 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 26 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support; 1 to provide information only if requested. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 27 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 27, which provides with respect to payment of interest in certain cases of administrative error in the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Steven Stockstill, representing the Firefighters' Retirement System board of trustees, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 27.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 27 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 27 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support; 1 to provide information only if requested. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 38 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 38, which provides relative to reenrollment in the Firefighters' Retirement System by employees covered by Social Security.

Steven Stockstill, representing the Firefighters' Retirement System board of trustees, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 38.

Gary Curran, actuary, G. S. Curran & Company, Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 38.

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 38 favorably, to which Representative Ivey objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 38 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Pearson, Montoucet, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea. Representative Ivey voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration and adoption of committee rules did not occur because the House convened and the meeting was adjourned.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no other announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman J. Kevin Pearson
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: