

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
April 28, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:16 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 Mark Abraham
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Sam Jones
Representative Gregory A. Miller
Representative Jack Montoucet, vice chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Paul Hollis

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Annie Smith, attorney
Linda Hopkins, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 18 by Senator Peacock

Senator Peacock presented Senate Bill No. 18, which provides for actuarial determinations and application of funds.

Representative Pearson offered amendments to limit availability of permanent benefit increase for state police retirees who retired prior to June 30, 2001. Representative Pearson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Rodney Watson, executive director of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (no address given), (318) 294-5605, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 18.

Representative Jones offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 18 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 18 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support; and 5 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 5 by Senator Peacock

Senator Peacock presented Senate Bill No. 5, which provides for the payment of certain system administrative expenses.

Representative Gregory Miller offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 5 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 5 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support; and 5 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 2 by Senator Peacock

Senator Peacock presented Senate Bill No. 2, which authorizes payments funded by state systems' experience accounts to certain retirees and beneficiaries.

Representative Pearson offered amendments to add supplemental COLAs for state trooper retirees, age 65, who retired before June 30, 2001. Representative Pearson offered a motion to adopt the

proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 2 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 2 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support; and 5 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 4 by Senator Peacock

Senator Peacock presented Senate Bill No. 4, which provides for the frequency of meetings of the board of trustees.

Maureen Westgard, director, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 925-6454, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 4.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 4 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 4 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 37 by Representative Jones

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 37, which provides relative to the board of trustees of the Municipal Employees' 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 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Representative Pearson offered amendments to change trustee term of office, provide limitations on use of system funds and gifts to trustees, and require annual disclosures. Representative Pearson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Warren Ponder, acting director, Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana, 7937 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4814, spoke to provide information only on House Bill No. 37.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 37 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 37 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 15 by Senator Mills

Representative Jones presented Senate Bill No. 15 on behalf of Senator Mills, which adds the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane and Conservation District to the system.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 15 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 15 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

House Bill No. 907 by Representative LeBas

Representative LeBas presented House Bill No. 907, which increases the earnings allowed in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana for retirees who are reemployed as substitute classroom teachers to fill certain vacancies.

Representative Pearson offered amendments to provide for increased rehire benefits for substitute teachers filling extended leave vacancies. Representative Pearson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Tom Tate, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 921-5637, spoke in support of House Bill No. 907.

Representative Montoucet offered a motion to report House Bill No. 907 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 907 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, Gregory Miller, and Montoucet voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support; and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Vice Chairman Montoucet in the chair.

Senate Bill No. 14 by Senator Morrish

Representative Pearson presented Senate Bill No. 14 for Senator Morrish, which adds employees of the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority to the system membership.

Nedra Davis, executive director, Chenier Plain Authority, 7515 Jefferson Highway, #322, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 333-8234, spoke to provide information only.

Representative Jones 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, Abraham, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, Gregory Miller, and Montoucet voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Gregory Miller offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Ivey, Jones, Gregory Miller, and Montoucet voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman J. Kevin Pearson
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: