

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2019 Regular Session
April 25, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, chairman
Representative Mark Abraham
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Sam Jones, vice chairman
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Paul Hollis
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tyler Bosworth, legislative analyst
Jennifer Watson, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Gabrielle Daigle, clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Approval of 2018 Regular Session committee meeting minutes: March 15, 2018; March 29, 2018; April 13, 2018; April 18, 2018; April 27, 2018.

Representative Jones offered a motion to approve the 2018 minutes. Without objection, House Bill No. 15 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Jones, and Moore voted yea.

Exhibit A - Actuarial Opinion

Chairman Pearson read into the record a letter from the office of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor regarding actuarial opinion, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

IV. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 14 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Bill No. 14, which prohibits certain employees from rejoining the Firefighters' Retirement System (FRS) and Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System (MPERS).

Representative Pearson offered amendments to authorize the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to provide FRS and MPERS with the address of each recipient of state supplemental pay and 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, Bacala, Carpenter, Jones, and Moore voted yea.

Steven Stockstill, FRS, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 14.

Representative Abraham offered a motion to report House Bill No. 14 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 14 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Jones, and Moore voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 15 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Bill No. 15, which provides relative to benefit options for certain retirees of the Firefighters' Retirement System.

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

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

House Bill No. 16 by Representative Abraham

Representative Abraham presented House Bill No. 16, which requires a physical exam that meets or exceeds national standards for purposes of membership in the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Representative Abraham offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Abraham offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the substitute bill was adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Jones, and Moore voted yea.

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 16 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 16 was reported by substitute by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Jones, and Moore voted yea.

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

Vice Chairman Sam Jones in the chair.

House Bill No. 21 by Representative Pearson

Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 21, which changes the actuarial funding method for the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Gary Curran, actuary, 10555 North Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225)769-4825, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 21.

Steven Stockstill, FRS, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225)925-4060, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 21.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 21 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 21 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Jones, and Moore voted yea.

House Bill No. 20 by Representative Pearson

Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 20, which provides relative to the retirement contributions of members of the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System (LSERS) who withdraw from service.

Charles Bujol, executive director, LSERS, 8660 United Plaza Boulevard, First Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-6486 spoke for information only on House Bill No. 20.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 20 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 20 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Jones, and Moore voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Chairman Kevin Pearson in the chair.

House Bill No. 22 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 22, which provides relative to the calculation of benefits of certain employees of the Baton Rouge Police Department who are members of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System (MPERS).

Representative Bacala offered amendments to:

1. Define "applicable interest" and require inclusion of interest in calculations required by proposed law.
2. Add requirement that both parties agree on the actuarial methodology to be used for the initial actuarial certification.
3. Add a mandatory mediation provision.

Representative Bacala 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, Bacala, Carpenter, Jones, and Moore voted yea.

Ben Huxen, MPERS, 7722 Office Park Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 929-7411, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 22.

Representative Jones 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 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Jones, and Moore voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 24 by Representative Stagni

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 24, which provides for the enrollment of additional employees in the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Valerie Brolin, Jefferson Parish Finance Authority, 1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Suite 505, Harahan, LA 70123, (504) 736-6311, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 24.

Gregory Curran, actuary, 10555 North Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 24.

Dainna Tully, Parochial Employees Retirement, P.O. Box 14619, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, (225) 928-1361, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 24.

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 24 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 24 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Jones, and Moore voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 29 by Representative Robert Johnson

Representative Robert Johnson presented House Bill No. 29, which provides relative to the payment of health insurance premiums for certain retirees of the Hazardous Duty Services Plan in the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS).

Jeffrey Metzger, LASERS Hazardous Duty, 823 Carnforth Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 252-1934, spoke in support of House Bill No. 29.

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 29 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 29 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Jones, and Moore voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 27 by Representative Jones

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 27, which provides relative to elected officials who are members of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana (MERS).

Warren Ponder, 3793 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4810, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 27.

Michale Sigur, 2201 Florida Avenue, Kenner, LA 70062, (504) 884-2352, spoke in support of House Bill No 27.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 27 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 27 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Jones, and Moore 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.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman J. Kevin Pearson
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: