

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 5, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Phillip R. DeVillier, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Phillip R. DeVillier, chairman
Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Delisha Boyd
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Paul Hollis
Representative John R. Illg, Jr., vice chairman
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur
Representative Richard James Nelson
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joey David, legislative analyst
Jennifer Watson, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms
Kalan Jenkins, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 5 by Senator Price

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 5, which grants a nonrecurring lump-sum supplemental payment to certain eligible retirees and beneficiaries.

Tina Grant, Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, 8401 United Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 922-2640, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 5.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 5 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 5 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Freeman, Illg, Jefferson, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver 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.

Senate Bill No. 6 by Senator Price

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 6, which grants a permanent benefit increase to eligible system retirees and beneficiaries.

Katherine Whitney, director, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, 8401 United Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-6454, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 6.

Shelley Johnson, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, 13420 Parker Commons Boulevard, Suite 104, Fort Myers, FL 33912, (239) 433-5500, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 6.

Donald Songy, Ascension Retired Teachers' Association, 37617 Seven Oaks Avenue, Prarieville, LA 70769, (225) 323-3921, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 6.

Rodney Watson, executive director, Louisiana Retired Teachers Association, 9412 Common Street, Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 927-8837, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 6.

Representative Bacala stated that he had a potential conflict of interest and recused himself from voting on Senate Bill No. 6 .

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 6 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 6 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Boyd, Emerson, Freeman, Hollis, Illg, Ivey, Jefferson, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Illg in the chair.

Senate Bill No. 7 by Senator Price

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 7, which grants a permanent benefit increase to system retirees and beneficiaries.

Kevin Reed, Louisiana State Police Retirement System, 9224 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-8400, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 7.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 7 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 7 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Boyd, Emerson, Illg, Jefferson, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver 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.

Senate Bill No. 8 by Senator Price

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 8, which clarifies and standardizes language relative to certain benefits.

Kevin Reed, Louisiana State Police Retirement System, 9224 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-8400, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 8.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 8 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 8 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Boyd, Emerson, Illg, Jefferson, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

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

Representative Emerson in the chair.

Senate Bill No. 9 by Senator Robert Mills

Senator Robert Mills presented Senate Bill No. 9, which provides relative to benefits provided by and administration of certain statewide retirement systems.

Maris LeBlanc, Municipal Employees' Retirement System, 7937 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, 925-4810, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 9.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 9 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 9 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Boyd, Emerson, Illg, Ivey, Jefferson, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

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

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of the statements are included in the committee records.

The committee stood at ease at 10:17 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:28 a.m.

Chairman DeVillier in the chair.

House Bill No. 25 by Representative McCormick

Representative McCormick presented House Bill No. 25, which prohibits retirement systems from investing in companies that boycott energy companies.

Representative Emerson offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Emerson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Boyd, Emerson, Firmont, Freeman, Hollis, Illg, Ivey, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

John Schroder, treasurer, State Capitol Building, third floor, Baton Rouge, LA, for information only on House Bill No. 25.

John Broussard, Louisiana State Treasury, State Capitol Building, third floor, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 25.

Kevin Reed, Louisiana State Police Retirement System, 9224 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-8400, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 25.

Kristi Spinosa, District Attorneys' Retirement System, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 938-8414, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 25.

Steven Stockstill, Firefighters' Retirement System Board of Trustees, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 25.

Phil Griffith, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-6470, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 25.

Bobby Beale, Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 25.

Osey McGee, Jr., Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension Fund, 1225 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 281-4627, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 25.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 25. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 25 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Freeman, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 17 in opposition, and 6 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in opposition. Copies of the statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 30 by Representative Frieman

Representative Frieman presented House Bill No. 30, which provides relative to the reemployment of retired teachers in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to:

1. Allow a retired teacher to be reemployed and collect his full salary while retaining his full benefit.
2. Allow employee and employer to make contributions to the system with the employee's contributions returned upon termination of employment.
3. Create a sunset date of five years.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Illg, Ivey, LaFleur, and Nelson voted yea.

Representative Emerson offered amendments to define "teacher". Representative Emerson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by

a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Illg, Ivey, and LaFleur voted yea.

Katherine Whitney, director, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, 8401 United Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-6454, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 30.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to make House Bill No. 30 identical to House Bill No. 22 by Representative Edmonds except for the earnings limitation and definition of teacher. Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Firment, Illg, Ivey, Jefferson, and LaFleur voted yea.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to reconsider the vote by which certain amendments to House Bill No. 30 were adopted. Without objection, the motion to reconsider the vote passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Firment, Illg, Ivey, Jefferson, and LaFleur voted yea.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 30 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 30 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Firment, Illg, Ivey, Jefferson, and LaFleur 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Ivey offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Firment, Illg, Ivey, Jefferson, and LaFleur voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Phillip R. DeVillier
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: