

## **House Committee on Retirement**

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
March 28, 2024

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Tony Bacala, chair of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Tony Bacala, chair  
Representative Roy Daryl Adams  
Representative Stephanie Hunter Berault  
Representative Delisha Boyd  
Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass  
Representative R. Dewith Carrier  
Representative Josh Carlson  
Representative Peter F. Egan, Sr.  
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman  
Representative John R. Illg, Jr., vice chair  
Representative Timothy P. Kerner  
Representative Brach Jerad Myers  
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor  
Representative Polly Thomas

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alexandra Cravins, committee administrative assistant  
Joey David, legislative analyst

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms  
Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms  
Frank Meyer, IV, clerk

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 40 by Representative Horton**

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 40, which provides relative to the board of trustees of the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Paul Smith, Louisiana Association of Retired Firefighters, no address provided, Alexandria, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 40.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 40.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 40 favorably, to which Representative Adams objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 40 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Bacala, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Illg, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea. Representative Adams voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 9 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 13 by Representative Emerson**

Representative Emerson presented House Bill No. 13, which provides relative to the board of trustees of the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Chad Roberson, Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, P.O. Box 866, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in support of House Bill No. 13.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, spoke in opposition to House Bill No.13.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 13 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 13 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Brass, Carrier, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 9 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 9 by Representative Illg**

Representative Illg presented House Bill No. 9, which provides for survivor benefits of members of the District Attorneys' Retirement System.

Philip Qualls, Louisiana District Attorneys' Retirement System, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill 9.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 9 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 9 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Brass, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas 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. 10 by Representative Illg**

Representative Illg presented House Bill No. 10, which provides relative to interest on investment accounts maintained by the board of trustees of the District Attorneys' Retirement System.

Representative Kerner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 10 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 10 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Brass, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

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

*Vice chair Illg in the chair.*

### **House Bill No. 29 by Representative Bacala**

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 29, which provides relative to benefits of the Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to remove the requirement that the designation of a person to receive the contributions occur at the time of retirement. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Brass, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 29 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 29 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Brass, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas 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.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Bacala presented an update to the Rules of the House Committee on Retirement, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records. Representative Illg offered a motion to adopt the committee rules. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Several witnesses discussed information presented in a PowerPoint presentation, "State Retirement Systems of Louisiana", which is labeled Exhibit B and is included in the committee records. The witnesses spoke for information only and are as follows:

Katherine Whitney, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

Trey Boudreaux, Louisiana Systems Employees' Retirement System, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

Kristi Spinosa, Parochial Employees' Retirement System, 7905 Wrenwood Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Bacala announced that House Bill No. 41 by Representative Adams, which provides relative to the Firefighters' Retirement System, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Myers offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Brass, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Tony Bacala  
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: