

## **House Committee on Retirement**

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
April 11, 2024

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

Representative Tony Bacala, chair of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Tony Bacala, chair  
Representative Delisha Boyd  
Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass  
Representative Josh Carlson  
Representative R. Dewith Carrier  
Representative Peter F. Egan, Sr.  
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman  
Representative John R. Illg, Jr., vice chair  
Representative Timothy P. Kerner  
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor  
Representative Polly Thomas  
Representative Brach Jerad Myers  
Representative Michael T. Johnson, ex officio

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Roy Daryl Adams  
Representative Stephanie H. Berault

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

Alexandra Cravins, committee administrative assistant  
Joey David, legislative analyst

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms  
Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms  
Frank Meyer, IV, clerk

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****Senate Bill No. 1 by Senator Price**

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 1, which provides relative to transfers of service credit between systems.

Kristi Spinosa, Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana, no address provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 1.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 1 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 1 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Carlson, 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, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 2 by Senator Price**

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 2, which provides relative to the board of trustees of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS).

Maris LeBlanc, MERS, 7937 Office Park, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 2.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 2 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 2 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 3 by Senator Price**

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 3, which provides relative to the deferred retirement of a member of the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund (LARF).

Katherine Bertrand, LARF, P.O. Box 14699, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 3.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 3 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 3 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

#### **Senate Bill No. 4 by Senator Price**

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 4, which provides relative to retirement allowances of the Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System (ROVERS).

Kathy Borque, ROVERS, P.O. Box 1959, Gonzales, LA 70737, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 4.

Representative Thomas offered amendments to specify that the spouse who receives the deceased retiree's benefit is the spouse at the time of retirement. Representative Thomas offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 4 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 4 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor and Thomas voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 31 by Representative Freiberg**

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 31, which provides relative to the optional retirement plan and defined benefit plan for the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL), and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Bacala offered an amendment to add provisions for payment of administration fees. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendments was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Boyd, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to:

1. Make the option of transferring from the optional retirement plan available to all participants rather than only those participating on June 30, 2024.
2. Add a five-year limit on the option to transfer from the optional retirement plan to the regular retirement plan.

3. Add a provision regarding the use of prior service credit in TRSL.

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, Boyd, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Kim Hunter Reed, Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill 31.

Katherine Whitney, TRSL, 8401 United Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 31.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 31 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 31 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Boyd, Carlson, 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.

#### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 20 by Representative Mike Johnson**

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 20, which provides relative to the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

Marcus Thomas, Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 20.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 20 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 20 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 35 by Representative Riser**

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 35, which provides for the reemployment of retirees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana in critical shortage positions.

Representative Thomas offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Thomas offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Katherine Whitney TRSL, 8401 United Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 35.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 35 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 35 was reported by substitute by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas 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. 15 by Representative Fontenot**

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 15, which provides for the reemployment of retired police officers of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to:

1. Add provisions regarding the definition of "employee" that are applicable to the Baton Rouge Police Department and to a person who was in another retirement system on March 5, 2023.
2. Add provisions for termination of membership by an elected official who is eligible for membership in another retirement system.

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, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to:

1. Add provisions regarding suspension of benefits for a reemployed retiree who retires between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2026, and for retirees who retire with 25 years of service credit.
2. Add provisions regarding retirement eligibility of certain police chiefs subject to term limits.

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 Bacala, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 15 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 15 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

The committee stood at ease at 10:34 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

### **House Bill No. 39 by Representative McCormick**

Representative McCormick presented House Bill No. 39, which provides relative to the reemployment of retired bus drivers of the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System.

Representative Carrier offered amendments to:

1. Make the six-month benefit suspension period applicable only to bus operators who retired on or before June 30, 2024.
2. Make technical changes.

*Representative Kerner in the chair.*

Representative Carrier offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Illg, Kerner, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered an amendment to change the title of "bus driver" to "bus operator". Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Illg, Kerner, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 39 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 39 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Illg, Kerner, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

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

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Bacala announced that House Bill No. 41 had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Illg, Kerner, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Tony Bacala  
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: