

## **House Committee on Retirement**

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
April 18, 2024

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

Representative Tony Bacala, chair of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:37 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 H. Berault  
Representative Delisha Boyd  
Representative Josh Carlson  
Representative R. Dewith Carrier  
Representative Peter F. Egan, Sr.  
Representative John R. Illg, Jr., vice chair  
Representative Timothy P. Kerner  
Representative Brach Jerad Myers  
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor  
Representative Polly Thomas

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass  
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman

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

Alexandra Cravins, committee administrative assistant  
Joey David, legislative analyst

#### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

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

### **III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

#### **House Bill No. 41 by Representative Adams**

Representative Adams presented House Bill No. 41, which provides relative to the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70772, spoke in support of House Bill No. 41.

Kenny Herbold, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 41.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 41. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 41 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Carlson, Carrier, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 902 by Representative Melerine**

Representative Melerine presented House Bill No. 902, which requires fiduciaries for public retirement systems to make investment decisions based solely on financial factors. He presented a document from American Accountability Foundation Research Team entitled "The Louisiana State Employees' Retirement Systems (LASERS) is Using Pension Funds to Push a Woke Agenda", labeled Exhibit A and is included in the committee records.

Representative Bacala offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Trey Boudreaux, Louisiana State Employees' Retirement Systems (LASERS), 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 902.

Bobby Beale, LASERS, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 902.

Margaret Michel, Louisiana State Police Retirement System, 9224 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 902.

Dainna Tully, Parochial Employees Retirement System (PERS), P.O. Box 14619, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 902.

Philip Griffith, chief investment officer, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL), 8401 United Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 902.

Katherine Whitney, director, TRSL, 8401 United Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 902.

*Representative Kerner in the chair.*

*Chair Bacala in the chair.*

Representative Bacala offered a motion to enact a 3-minute rule for members' questions and witness testimony. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Kristi Spinosa, PERS, 7905 Wrenwood, Baton Rouge, LA 70726, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 902.

Barbara Goodson, Firefighters' Retirement System, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 902.

Kenny Herbold, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 902.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 902 by substitute, to which Representative Myers objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Carlson, Carrier, Egan, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Kerner, Myers, and Taylor voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 15 in opposition, and 8 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 902 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

The committee stood at ease at 11:34 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:52 a.m.

### **House Bill No. 30 by Representative Bagley**

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 30, which provides relative to retirement eligibility in the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS).

Representative Bacala offered amendments to allow members of LASERS, who would not have been eligible for the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) because of this Act, the ability to participate in DROP. Representative Bacala 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, Adams, Berault, Carrier, Egan, Kerner, Myers, and Thomas voted yea.

Trey Boudreaux, LASERS, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 30.

Representative Kerner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 30 with amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Adams, Carrier, Egan, and Kerner voted yea. Representatives Bacala, Berault, Myers, and Thomas voted nay.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 30 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

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

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **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, Adams, Berault, Carrier, Egan, Kerner, Myers, and Thomas voted yea.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Tony Bacala  
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: