

## **House Committee on Retirement**

Minutes of Meeting  
2012 Regular Session  
May 3, 2012

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

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 12:24 p.m. in Committee Room 1, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, Chairman  
Representative Nick Lorusso, Vice Chairman  
Representative Frank A. Hoffmann  
Representative Paul B. Hollis  
Representative Sam Jones  
Representative Anthony "Tony" V. Ligi  
Representative Jack Montoucet  
Representative Edward J. Price  
Representative Eugene "Gene" Reynolds  
Representative Kirk Talbot  
Representative Jeff R. Thompson

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Alan Seabaugh

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

Ms. Stephanie Little, Committee Attorney  
Ms. Malerie Cacibauda, Committee Secretary  
Ms. Beverly Vincent, Sergeant at Arms  
Ms. Joyce Anthony, Sergeant at Arms

### **III. DISCUSSION**

#### **House Bill No. 7 by Representative Pearson**

House Bill No. 7 provides for annual reporting to the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System on privatized jobs.

Representative Pearson voluntarily deferred the bill.

**House Bill No. 1174 by Representative Danahay**

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 1174, which establishes "Hazardous Duty" and "Non-Hazardous Duty" subplans in the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System and the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Representative Pearson offered a set of amendments to remove the Firefighters' Retirement System from the bill. Representative Pearson offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

Representatives Jones, Pearson, and Hoffmann asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Mr. Tom Ed McHugh, representing the Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 N 10<sup>th</sup> St., Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-5001, and Mr. Duane Huddleston, representing Shreveport Police, 1234 Texas Ave., Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 465-5660, spoke in support of the bill.

Mr. Randy Roche, representing the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana, 7722 Office Park Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 933-2727, and Mr. Gary Curran, representing G.S. Curran & Co., Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Pl., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke to provide information for the bill.

Mr. Stacy Birdwell, representing the Firefighters' Retirement System and the Professional Fire Fighters Association, 9021 Aurora Ln., Shreveport, LA 71115, (318) 470-1316, spoke in opposition to the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of the bill but not wishing to speak and of persons in opposition to the bill but not wishing to speak is attached. (See Exhibit A)

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1174 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 1174 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

**House Bill No. 1017 by Representative Pearson**

Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 1017, which provides relative to the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund and the Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund, to remove authority for the payment of employee contributions by the employer.

Representative Pearson offered a set of amendments to delete all original provisions of the bill; to provide that if any new hire made on or after July 1, 2013, separates from service prior to retirement, the portion of all employee contributions paid on the member's behalf shall remain with the system and shall not be refunded to the member; and to provide the effective date of July 1, 2013. After discussion of the amendments, no motion to adopt the amendments was offered.

Representatives Pearson, Jones, Hoffmann, Montoucet, Price, and Reynolds asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in opposition to the bill but who did not speak and of one person present to provide information but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit B)

Representative Pearson voluntarily deferred the bill.

#### **House Bill No. 1030 by Representative Talbot**

On the behalf of Representative Talbot, Mr. Warren Ponder, Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System (LSERS), presented House Bill No. 1030, which prohibits members of the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System from remaining in that system after taking a job that is covered by a different retirement system.

Representative Talbot offered a set of amendments to change the applicability of proposed law from all members to only members whose first employment making them eligible for membership in a state retirement system occurred on or after January 1, 2013, to add provisions relative to transfers of service credit into LSERS, and to add the effective date of July 1, 2012. Representative Talbot offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, and Talbot voted yea.

Representatives Pearson and Jones asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Mr. Warren D. Ponder, representing the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System, 8660 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-6560, and Mr. Charles G. Hall, representing the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System, 1624 LaSalle Parc Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 928-7866, spoke to provide information.

A copy of a witness card of one person present to provide information but who did not speak is attached. (See Exhibit C)

Representative Talbot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1030 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 1030 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, and Talbot voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 1018 by Representative Pearson**

Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 1018, which prohibits limitations on the transfer of investment gains to accounts used to fund cost-of-living adjustments in the state retirement systems.

Representatives Thompson, Price, Pearson, and Jones asked questions and discussed the merits of the bill.

Mr. Benny Harris, representing the Retired State Employees Association, 4302 S. Roman St., New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 858-2585; Mr. Graig A. Luscombe, representing the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association, Inc., 9412 Common St., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 927-8837; and Mr. Frank Jobert, Jr., representing the Retired State Employees Association, 9412 Common St., Ste. 7, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 930-0961, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Ms. Shelley Johnson, representing the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, P.O. Box 1157, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 272-7339 and Ms. Maris LeBlanc, representing the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, 8401 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-2900, spoke to provide information for the bill.

A copy of witness cards of persons in support of or in opposition to the bill but who did not wish to speak and of one person present to provide information if requested is attached. (See Exhibit D)

During discussion, there was a brief recess from 3:14 p.m. until 3:17 p.m., and the discussion resumed.

Representative Pearson voluntarily deferred the bill.

#### **Senate Bill No. 39 by Senator Alario**

On Senator Alario's behalf, Representative Pearson presented Senate Bill No. 39, which adds Lafitte Area Independent Levee District Employees to the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System.

A copy of a witness card of one person present to provide information if requested is attached. (See Exhibit E)

Representative Jones offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 39 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 39 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Pearson, Price, Reynolds, Talbot, and Thompson voted yea.

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

##### **Approval of Minutes from the 2011 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session and the 2011 Regular Session**

The minutes from the 2011 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session and the 2011 Regular Session were presented to the committee for adoption. Representative Jones offered a motion to approve the minutes, to which there was no objection. The minutes from the 2011 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session and the 2011 Regular Session were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Hoffmann, Hollis, Jones, Ligi, Lorusso, Montoucet, Pearson, Price, and Reynolds voted yea.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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J. Kevin Pearson, Chairman

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_

/mcc