

## **House Committee on Retirement**

Minutes of Meeting  
2016 Regular Session  
May 12, 2016

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

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m. in Room 4, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Walt Leger, III, ex officio  
Representative Mark Abraham  
Representative Tony Bacala  
Representative Barry Ivey  
Representative Sam Jones  
Representative Gregory A. Miller

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, chairman  
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter  
Representative Paul Hollis  
Representative Jack Montoucet, vice chairman

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

Annie Smith, attorney  
Linda Hopkins, secretary

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

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms  
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

### III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

*Speaker Pro Tempore Leger in the Chair.*

#### **House Bill No. 56 by Representative Leger**

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 56, which provides relative to retirement eligibility and benefits for new hires in the Firefighters' Pension and Relief Fund in the city of New Orleans.

Representative Leger offered amendments to make the bill effective on August 15, 2016. Representative Leger offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Leger, Abraham, Bacala, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Andy Kopplin, first deputy mayor and chief administration officer, city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-4000, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Chief Tim McConnell, superintendent, New Orleans Fire Department, 317 Decatur Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 799-5565, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Nick Felton, president, New Orleans Fire Fighters Association, 3520 General DeGaulle Drive, New Orleans, LA 70114, (504) 366-8564, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Thomas F. Meagher, III, secretary-treasurer, New Orleans Firefighters' Pension and Relief Fund, 210 Eydie Lane, Slidell, LA 70458, (504) 578-0305, spoke to provide information only House Bill No. 56.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 56 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 56 was reported with amendments by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Leger, Abraham, Bacala, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support; and 7 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 57 by Representative Leger**

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 57, which provides relative to the assessment and remittal of employee contributions to the Firefighters' Pension and Relief Fund in the city of New Orleans.

Representative Leger offered amendments to change "compensation" to "compensation allowed as salary"; identify the city of New Orleans as the employer; and make technical changes.

Representative Leger offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Leger, Abraham, Bacala, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Andy Kopplin, first deputy mayor and chief administration officer, city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-4900, spoke in support of House Bill No. 57.

Chief Tim McConnell, superintendent, New Orleans Fire Department, 317 Decatur Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 799-5565, spoke in support of House Bill No. 57.

Nick Felton, president, New Orleans Fire Fighters Association, 3520 General DeGaulle Drive, New Orleans, LA 70114, (504) 366-8564, spoke in support of House Bill No. 57.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 57 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 57 was reported with amendments by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Leger, Abraham, Bacala, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support; and 1 to provide information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 59 by Representative Leger**

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 59, which provides relative to conversion of sick and annual leave to retirement credit in the Firefighters' Pension and Relief Fund in the city of New Orleans.

Representative Leger offered amendments to provide a method for converting sick and annual leave and to make technical changes. Representative Leger offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Leger, Abraham, Bacala, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Andy Kopplin, first deputy mayor and chief administration officer, city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-4900, spoke in support of House Bill No. 59.

Chief Tim McConnell, superintendent, New Orleans Fire Department, 317 Decatur Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 799-5565, spoke in support of House Bill No. 59.

Nick Felton, president, representing New Orleans Fire Fighters Association, 3520 General DeGaulle Drive, New Orleans, LA 70114, (504) 366-8564, spoke in support of House Bill No. 59.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 59 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 59 was reported with amendments by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Leger, Abraham, Bacala, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support; and 1 to provide information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 58 by Representative Leger**

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 58, which provides relative to the Deferred Retirement Option Plan in the Firefighters' Pension and Relief Fund in the city of New Orleans.

Representative Leger offered amendments to remove a provision regarding administrative fees cap; provide for DROP account investment; and make technical changes. Representative Leger offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Leger, Abraham, Bacala, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Andy Kopplin, first deputy mayor and chief administration officer, city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-4900, spoke in support of House Bill No. 58.

Chief Tim McConnell, superintendent, New Orleans Fire Department, 317 Decatur Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 799-5565, spoke in support of House Bill No. 58.

Nick Felton, president, representing New Orleans Fire Fighters Association, 3520 General DeGaulle Drive, New Orleans, LA 70114, (504) 366-8564, spoke in support of House Bill No. 58.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 58 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 58 was reported with amendments by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Leger, Abraham, Bacala, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support; 8 in opposition; and 1 to provide information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 62 by Representative Ivey**

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 62, which sets minimum employer contributions and provides for funding deposit accounts for each state retirement system.

Jim Melohn, representing St. Charles Parish School Board, 13855 River Road, Luling, LA 70070, (504) 416-6198, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 62.

Dannie Garrett, representing Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 62.

Donald Songy, representing Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 37617 Seven Oaks Avenue, Prairieville, LA, (225) 323-3921, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 62.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 62. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 62 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Leger, Abraham, Bacala, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support; 19 in opposition; and 2 to provide information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 12 by Representative Franklin**

On behalf of Representative Foil, Representative Jones presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 12, which memorializes congress to consider eliminating the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) Social Security benefit reductions.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 12 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 12 was reported favorably by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Bacala, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 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 Bacala offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Leger, Abraham, Bacala, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman J. Kevin Pearson  
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: