

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
April 27, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, chairman
Representative Mark Abraham
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Paul Hollis
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Sam Jones, vice chairman
Representative Gregory A. Miller

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Annie Smith, attorney
Linda Hopkins, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Paul Richmond, actuarial services manager, office of the legislative auditor
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RULES AND ADOPTION OF 2016 RS MINUTES

Representative Pearson requested an update to the Rules of the House Committee on Retirement, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records. Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the committee rules. Without objection, the committee rules were adopted by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

The minutes from the 2016 Regular Session dated March 24, March 31, April 14, April 21, April 28, May 5, and May 12, Exhibit B, were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Representative Pearson read a letter addressed to the House Retirement committee members, Exhibit C, from Daryl G. Purpera, legislative auditor, regarding actuarial notes and testimony which are considered by the American Academy of Actuaries to be Statements of Actuarial Opinion.

IV. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 31 by Representative Hoffmann

Representative Hoffmann presented House Bill No. 31, which provides relative to the reemployment of retired school psychologists in positions covered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Meagan Medley, school psychologist, La. School Psychological Association, 118 Essence Avenue, Thibodaux, LA 70301, (504) 812-6665, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 31.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 31 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 31 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Hollis, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 4 by Representative Miguez

Representative Miguez presented House Bill No. 4, which provides relative to the reemployment of retired school nurses in positions covered by the Teachers' Retirement System of La.

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 4 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 4 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

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

Vice Chairman Jones in the chair.

House Bill No. 8 by Representative Abraham

Representative Abraham presented House Bill No. 8, which provides relative to membership restrictions of the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Steven Stockstill, executive director, Firefighters' Retirement System, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 8.

Representative Ivey offered an amendment to specify that the proposed law exception to the present law general rule regarding dual membership applies only to dual membership within FRS. Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 8 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 8 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support; and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 9 by Representative Abraham

Representative Abraham presented House Bill No. 9, which provides relative to earnable compensation in the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 9 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 9 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

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

Vice Chairman Jones in the chair.

House Bill No. 21 by Representative Abraham

Representative Abraham presented House Bill No. 21, which provides relative to irrevocability of optional beneficiary designation.

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 21 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 21 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 22 by Representative Abraham

Representative Abraham presented House Bill No. 22, which provides relative to retirement options in the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 22 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 22 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 23 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Bill No. 23, which provides relative to benefit payments if an eligible member of the Firefighters' Retirement System dies prior to retirement.

Gary Curran, actuary, G. S. Curran & Company, Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 23.

Steven Stockstill, executive director, Firefighters' Retirement System, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 23.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 23 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 23 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller 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 Bill No. 35 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Bill No. 35, which provides relative to the offset of disability retirement benefits of members of the Firefighters' Retirement System based on receipt of workers' compensation benefits, Exhibit D.

Steven Stockstill, executive director, Firefighters' Retirement System, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 35.

Gary Curran, actuary, G. S. Curran & Company, Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 35. (No witness card)

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 35 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 35 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, Jones, and Gregory Miller 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.

Vice Chairman Jones in the chair.

House Bill No. 11 by Representative Barras

On behalf of Representative Barras, Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 11, which provides relative to Back-DROP benefits of the Assessors' Retirement Fund.

Rickey J. Huval, Sr., Iberia assessor's office, 121 West Pershing Street, New Iberia, LA 70560, (337) 519-2203, and Louisiana Assessors' Association, 3060 Valley Creek Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (800) 925-4446, spoke in support of House Bill No. 11.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 11 favorably, to which Representative Ivey objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 11 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Hollis, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea. Representative Ivey voted nay.

House Bill No. 32 by Representative Pearson

Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 32, which provides relative to the board of trustees of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of La.

Warren Ponder, director, Municipal Employees' Retirement System, 7937 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4810, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 32.

Representative Jones offered an amendment to delete "active and contributing" on page 1, line 16, and page 2, line 1. Representative Jones offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 32 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 32 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Representative Gregory Miller in the chair.

House Bill No. 33 by Representative Pearson

Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 33, which provides relative to representation of the House of Representatives on the boards of trustees of state and statewide retirement systems.

Representative Bacala offered an amendment to remove provisions placing the chairman of the House Committee on Retirement rather than a member of the committee on the 13 state and statewide retirement system boards. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representative Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 33 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 33 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

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

Chairman Pearson in the chair.

House Bill No. 38 by Representative Abraham

Representative Abraham presented House Bill No. 38, which provides relative to the authority of the board of trustees of the District Attorneys' Retirement System.

Representative Gregory Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 38 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 38 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, and Gregory Miller 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.

The committee stood at ease at 11:08 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

House Bill No. 549 by Representative Hodges

Representative Pearson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 549, which requires the Louisiana Deferred Compensation Plan to provide a voluntary option investment, provides for commission membership, and requires reporting. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 549 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Hollis, Ivey, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

House Bill No. 36 by Representative Jones

Representative Sam Jones presented House Bill No. 36, which provides relative to the reemployment of retirees of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Tommy Eschete, mayor, city of Thibodaux, P. O. Box 5418, Thibodaux, LA, (985) 446-7218, spoke in support of House Bill No. 36.

Skip McGee, director, La. Sheriffs Pension and Relief Fund, 1225 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70605, (225) 219-0500, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 36.

Warren Ponder, director, Municipal Employees' Retirement System, 7937 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4810, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 36.

Gary Curran, actuary, G. S. Curran & Company, Ltd., 10555 N. Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-4825, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 36.

Representative Jones offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 36. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 36 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Hollis, Jones, and Gregory Miller 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.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Pearson announced that general information forms, Exhibit E, for each of the state and statewide retirement systems for 2016, were included in members' folders.

Chairman Pearson announced that House Bill No. 37 was withdrawn from the files of the House.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Pearson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Hollis, Jones, and Gregory Miller voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman J. Kevin Pearson
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: