

## **House Committee on Retirement**

Minutes of Meeting  
2017 Regular Session  
May 11, 2017

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

Representative J. Kevin Pearson, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 10:03 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 Barry Ivey  
Representative Sam Jones, vice chairman

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Paul Hollis  
Representative Gregory A. Miller

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

#### **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 by Senator Mizell**

Senator Mizell presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22, which memorializes congress to consider eliminating the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) Social Security benefit reductions, Exhibits A and B.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Ivey, and Jones voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support; and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 36 by Representative Jones**

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

Representative Jones offered a substitute bill which would allow retired members of the Municipal Employees Retirement System of La. (MERS) to return to work with benefit suspension and to receive a supplemental benefit. Representative Jones offered a motion to adopt the proposed substitute. Without objection, the substitute bill was adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Ivey, and Jones voted yea.

Warren Ponder, executive 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.

Susita Suire, retirement benefits administrator, Municipal Employees' Retirement System, 7937 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4810, spoke to provide information only on House Bill No. 36.

Greg 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 Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 36 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 36 was reported by substitute by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Ivey, and Jones voted yea.

Witness cards 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. 549 by Representative Hodges**

Representative Hodges presented House Bill No. 549, which requires the Louisiana Deferred Compensation Plan to provide a voluntary option investment, provides for commission membership, and requires reporting.

Andrew Dalin, counsel, Dentons US, LLP, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, (212) 768-6895, provided committee members with a letter, Exhibit C, regarding the Louisiana Deferred Compensation Plan.

Lawrence M. Hill, esquire, Winston & Strawn, LLP, 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166, (212) 294-6700, provided committee members with a letter, Exhibit D, regarding the Louisiana Deferred Compensation Plan.

Representative Pearson offered a substitute bill to House Bill No. 549 to prohibit mandated investment by participants in the Louisiana Deferred Compensation Plan in companies that boycott Israel and provides for membership of the Deferred Compensation Commission and duties of the state treasurer. Representative Pearson offered a motion to adopt the proposed substitute. Without objection, the substitute bill was adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Ivey, and Jones voted yea.

Representative Ted James, House District No. 101, 3433 East Forest Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70814, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 549.

Lyndon Allen, pastor, central regional coordinator, Christians United for Israel, 1840 Senterra Place, San Antonio, TX, (615) 397-8343, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 549.

Thomas Enright, first assistant state treasurer, La. Dept. of the Treasury, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0010, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 549.

Whitman Kling, vice chair, La. Deferred Compensation Commission, 2144 Aspenwood, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 485-5804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 549.

Bob Tarcza, tax counsel, La. Deferred Compensation Commission, 288 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 1310, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 525-6696, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 549.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to make board duties proposed by the substitute bill subject to appropriation. 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 Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Ivey, and Jones voted yea.

***Vice Chairman Jones in the chair.***

Dennis Blackwell, pastor, Lighthouse Christian Fellowship, 3326 Lanier Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70814, (504) 915-5019, spoke in support of House Bill No. 549.

Jesse Burgoyne, pastor, Accountability Church, IFL, 8016 Kingsley Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70706, (225) 667-3027, spoke in support of House Bill No. 549.

Kristie Cross, La. Family Forum, no address given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 549.

Rob Maness, retired colonel, La. Power Coalition, no street address given, Madisonville, LA 70447, (985) 218-0135, spoke in support of House Bill No. 549.

Mary Patricia Wray, La. Public Pension Coalition, 328 East Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 549.

Frank L. Jobert, Jr., Retired State Employees Association, 9401 Common Street, Suite 7, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (504) 289-9424, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 549.

Representative Abraham offered a motion to report House Bill No. 549 by substitute, to which Representative Pearson objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 549 was reported by substitute by a vote of 5 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Ivey, and Jones voted yea. Representative Pearson voted nay.

Witness cards by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 24 in support; and 1 in opposition. 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 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pearson, Abraham, Bacala, Carpenter, Ivey, and Jones voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman J. Kevin Pearson  
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: