

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 3, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Phillip R. DeVillier, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Phillip R. DeVillier, chairman
Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Paul Hollis
Representative John R. Illg, Jr., vice chairman
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur
Representative Richard James Nelson
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Delisha Boyd
Representative Barry Ivey

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joey David, legislative analyst
Jennifer Watson, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms
Alex Stefanski, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 17 by Senator Peacock

Senator Peacock presented Senate Bill No. 17, which provides for the composition, terms, powers, and duties of the Shreveport police and firefighters' pension boards of trustees.

Bill Wilson, Shreveport Policemen's Pension, 7727 Millicent Way, Shreveport, LA 71105, (318) 798-7645, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 17.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 17 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 17 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Emerson, Freeman, Illg, Jefferson, Knox, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 34 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 34, which provides relative to the funding deposit account for Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System and authorizes the board of trustees of the system to modify employer contributions.

Vice Chairman Illg in the chair.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to limit the authorized contribution rate increase in the first year. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Freeman, Hollis, Illg, Jefferson, Knox, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 34 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 34 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Freeman, Hollis, Illg, Jefferson, Knox, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver 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 DeVillier in the chair.

House Bill No. 37 by Representative Emerson

Representative Emerson presented House Bill No. 37, which provides relative to the board of trustees of the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Representative Emerson offered a technical amendment. Representative Emerson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Emerson, Freeman, Illg, Jefferson, Knox, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Chad Roberson, Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, P.O. Box 866, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 767-7640, spoke in support of House Bill No. 37.

Charles Pinkston IV, Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, P.O. Box 866, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (318) 455-2410, spoke in support of House Bill No. 37.

Steven Stockstill, Firefighter's Retirement System board of trustees, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 925-4060, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 37.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 572-8483, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 37.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 37 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 37 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Emerson, Freeman, Illg, Jefferson, Knox, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, 5 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Vice Chairman Illg in the chair.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 70 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 70, which requests retirement systems and the state treasurer to report on companies that do not invest in certain energy companies.

John Schroder, Louisiana State Treasurer, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 70.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 70 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 70 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas

and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Firment, Illg, Knox, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

House Bill No. 43 by Representative Firment

Representative Firment presented House Bill No. 43, which provides for nonrecurring lump-sum supplemental payment to certain eligible retirees and beneficiaries.

Steven Stockstill, Firefighter's Retirement System board of trustees, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 925-4060, spoke in support of House Bill No. 43.

Representative Illg offered amendments to add provisions relative to a surviving spouse designating a child to receive a portion of his benefit. Representative Illg offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Emerson, Firment, Freeman, Illg, Knox, LaFleur, and Tarver voted yea.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 572-8483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 43.

Penny Frame, 2811 Tupelo Street, no city provided, (504) 669-6387, spoke in support of House Bill No. 43.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 43 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 43 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Emerson, Firment, Freeman, Illg, Jefferson, Knox, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 20 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 44 by Representative Horton

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 44, which provides relative to the board of trustees of the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Representative Emerson offered amendments to remove proposed law that provides for:

- (1) Five retired firefighters elected to the board from geographic districts.
- (2) An active firefighter elected to the board by active members.

- (3) A surviving spouse elected to the board by the retirees and spouses of deceased members.
- (4) Removal of current members of the board.

Chairman DeVillier in the chair.

Representative Emerson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Bacala, Emerson, Firment, Jefferson, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Mitch O'Neal, Firefighter Retirees, 111 Crestwood Drive, Haughton, LA 71037, (318) 465-3580, spoke in support of House Bill No. 44.

Tim Thames, Shreveport Fire Department, 395 Twin Oaks Road, Stonewall, LA 71078, (318) 230-1933, spoke in support of House Bill No. 44.

Richard Williams, Louisiana Municipal Association, 6767 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 344-5001, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 44.

Steven Stockstill, Firefighter's Retirement System board of trustees, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 925-4060, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 44.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 572-8483, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 44.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 44 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 44 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Bacala, Emerson, Firment, Freeman, Hollis, Illg, Knox, LaFleur, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support, and 5 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 67, which provides relative to the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas

and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Emerson, Firment, Freeman, Hollis, Illg, Jefferson, Knox, LaFleur, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 69 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 69, which requests the House Committee on Retirement and the Senate Retirement Committee to study future benefit options for employees.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 69 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 69 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Emerson, Firment, Freeman, Hollis, Illg, Jefferson, Knox, LaFleur, and Tarver voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Adoption of minutes for the 2022 Regular Session meetings held on April 7, April 20, May 5, and May 19, 2022, and a 2022-2023 Interim meeting held on December 15, 2022.

The minutes from the 2022 Regular Session meetings held on April 7, April 20, May 5, and May 19, 2022, and a 2022-2023 Interim meeting held on December 15 were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Illg offered a motion to adopt the minutes. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Freeman, Illg, Jefferson, Knox, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Tarver offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Emerson, Freeman, Illg, Jefferson, Knox, LaFleur, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Phillip R. DeVillier
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: