

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 1, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Tony Bacala, chair of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Tony Bacala, chair
Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Stephanie H. Berault
Representative Delisha Boyd
Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass
Representative Josh Carlson
Representative R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Peter F. Egan, Sr.
Representative John R. Illg, Jr., vice chair
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Brach Jerad Myers
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor
Representative Polly Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joey David, legislative analyst
Alexandra Cravins, committee administrative assistant
Lauren Breen, clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 415 by Senator Price

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 415, which provides for reemployment of retirees of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund.

Representative Carrier offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 415 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 415 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Taylor, and Thomas 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.

Senate Bill No. 478 by Senator Boudreaux

Senator Boudreaux presented Senate Bill No. 478, which provides for Lafayette Consolidated Government Employees.

Representative Bacala offered a technical amendment. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Boyd, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Kenny Herbold, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 478.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 478 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 478 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Taylor, and Thomas 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.

House Bill No. 30 by Representative Bagley

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 30, which provides relative to retirement eligibility in the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS).

Trey Boudreaux, LASERS, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 30.

Shelley Johnson, 13420 Parker Commons Boulevard, Suite 104, Fort Meyers, FL 33912, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 30.

Kenny Herbold, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 30.

Representative Illg offered amendments to increase the eligible retirement age to 27 years of service. Representative Illg offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 30 with amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 30 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Adams, Brass, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, and Taylor voted yea. Representatives Bacala, Berault, Boyd, Carlson, Myers, and Thomas voted nay.

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

Vice Chair Illg in chair.

Senate Bill No. 405 by Senator Kleinpeter

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Bill No. 405, which provides for retirees returning to positions covered by the Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Retirement Fund.

Gary Bennet, assistant director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 405.

Skip McGee, Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension Fund, 1225 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 405.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 405 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 405 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 406 by Senator Kleinpeter

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Bill No. 406, which removes the cap on the amount of any permanent benefit increase for recipients whose benefit is based on the record of someone who retired with at least 30 years of service credit.

Skip McGee, Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension Fund, 1225 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 406.

Representative Myers offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 406 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 406 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas 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.

House Resolution No. 169 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Resolution No. 169, which creates a task force to study the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) within the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to add provisions for examining aspects of the ORP program. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 169 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 169 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas 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.

Chair Bacala in the chair.

House Bill No. 902 by Representative Melerine

Representative Melerine presented House Bill No. 902, which requires fiduciaries for public retirement systems to make investment decisions based solely on financial factors.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to remove amendments adopted on April 18, 2024 (#3260). Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of

12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

Trey Boudreaux, LASERS, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 902.

Bobby Beale, LASERS, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 902.

Margaret Michel, Louisiana State Police Retirement System, 9224 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 902.

Katherine Whitney, director, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 902.

Maris LeBlanc, Municipal Employees' Retirement System, 7937 Office Park, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 902.

Kristi Spinosa, Parochial Employees' Retirement System, 7905 Wrenwood, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 902.

Kenny Herbold, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 902.

Representative Berault offered a motion to report House Bill No. 902 by substitute, to which Representative Taylor objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 902 was reported by substitute by a vote of 11 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Bacala, Berault, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, and Thomas voted yea. Representative Taylor voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 4 in opposition, and 6 for information only. 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 Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Berault, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Carrier, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Myers, Taylor, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Tony Bacala
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: