

## **House Committee on Retirement**

Minutes of Meeting  
2025 Regular Session  
April 24, 2025

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

Representative Tony Bacala, chair of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 8:45 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 Dixon Wallace McMakin  
Representative Annie Spell  
Representative Polly Thomas

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman  
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor

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

Joey David, legislative analyst  
Jennifer Watson, committee administrative assistant

## **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Bryce McGlothin, clerk  
Martin Mapp, Jr., sergeant at arms  
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms  
Ralph Palmer, sergeant at arms

## **III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

Included in the records of this meeting is a staff handout of bills that were discussed, labeled Exhibit A.

### **House Bill No. 20 by Representative Moore**

Representative Moore presented House Bill No. 20, which provides relative to the reemployment of retired teachers in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 20. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 20 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Carlson, Egan, Illg, Kerner, McMakin, Spell, and Thomas 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. 8 by Representative Glorioso**

Representative Glorioso presented House Bill No. 8, which provides relative to membership in the Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

Representative Berault offered a motion to report House Bill No. 8 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 8 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Carlson, Egan, Illg, Kerner, McMakin, Spell, 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.

### **House Bill No. 9 by Representative Bagley**

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 9, 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. 9.

Shelley Johnson, LASERS, 13420 Parker Commons Boulevard, Suite 104, Fort Myers, FL 33912, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 9.

Kenny Herbold, LLA, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 9.

Representative Adams offered a motion to report House Bill No. 9 favorably, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Adams, Brass, and Kerner voted yea. Representatives Bacala, Berault, Carlson, Egan, Illg, McMakin, Spell, 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.

#### **House Bill No. 10 by Representative Boyer**

Representative Boyer presented House Bill No. 10, which provides for the reemployment of retirees under certain circumstances in the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to reduce the service credit to 25 years. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Berault, Brass, Carlson, Egan, Illg, McMakin, Spell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 10 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 10 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Berault, Brass, Egan, Illg, Kerner, McMakin, Spell, and Thomas 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 Chair Illg in the chair.*

#### **House Bill No. 18 by Representative Kerner**

Representative Kerner presented House Bill No. 18, which provides relative to the funding of supplemental benefits for members of the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 18.

Greg Curran, Actuary, 10555 North Glenstone Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 18.

Laura Gail Sullivan, Firefighters' Retirement System, 3100 Brentwood, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 18.

Representative Spell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 18 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 18 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Egan, Illg, Kerner, McMakin, Spell, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

*Chair Bacala in the chair.*

**House Bill No. 28 by Representative Kerner**

Representative Kerner presented House Bill No. 28, which provides relative to the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 28.

Craig M. Burkett, Jefferson Firefighters Association, 1312 Airline Park Boulevard, Metairie, LA 70003, spoke in support of House Bill No. 28.

Representative Kerner offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove the provision requiring when benefits are to be paid to a child with a disability.
- (2) Add a time frame for when a surviving eligible spouse has to designate a child or children with a permanent mental or physical disability to receive a portion of a deceased member's benefit.

Representative Kerner offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Egan, Kerner, Spell, and Thomas voted yea.

Barbara Goodson, Firefighters' Retirement System, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill 28.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 28 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 28 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Spell, and Thomas 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. 19 by Representative Kerner**

Representative Kerner presented House Bill No. 19, which provides relative to the administration and participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan for the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 19.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 19 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 19 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Spell, and Thomas voted yea.

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

### **House Bill No. 17 by Representative Tarver**

Representative Tarver presented House Bill No. 17, which provides relative to the deferred retirement option plan of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System (MPERS).

Representative Bacala offered amendments to:

- (1) Require the participant to specify the duration of his participation before his final participation date or August 1, 2025, whichever is earlier.
- (2) Change the effective date to upon signature of governor.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Egan, Illg, Kerner, Spell, and Thomas voted yea.

Ben Huxen, MPERS, 7722 Office Park, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. spoke for information only on House Bill No. 17.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 17 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 17 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Egan, Illg, Kerner, McMakin, Spell, and Thomas 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 Chair Illg in the chair.*

**House Bill No. 24 by Representative Bacala**

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 24, which provides relative to the optional retirement plan (ORP) in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL).

Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Louisiana Board of Regents, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, distributed to members a document entitled "TRSL-ORP Task Force 2024 Report", labeled Exhibit B, in the committee records.

Dr. Parampreet Singh, address illegible, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 24.

Trey Roche, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, 8401 United Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 24.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Illg, Kerner, McMakin, Spell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to add an ORP participant to the TRSL board of trustees. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Carlson, Egan, Illg, Kerner, McMakin, Spell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to reject amendment No. 4 of Amendment #1388. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Carlson, Egan, Illg, McMakin, Spell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to allow a member of the ORP who left a position covered by the system and later became employed in a position covered by the system to choose to

join the regular retirement plan of TRSL. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Carlson, Egan, Illg, Kerner, McMakin, Spell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to add the commissioner of higher education or his designee as an ex officio member of the TRSL board of trustees. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Carlson, Egan, Illg, Kerner, McMakin, Spell, and Thomas voted yea.

Philip Outer, 518 Saint Camille Street, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in support of House Bill No. 24.

Katherine Whitney, TRSL, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 24.

Bonnie Hymel, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 24.

Representative Boyd offered a motion to report House Bill No. 24 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 24 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Boyd, Brass, Carlson, Egan, Illg, McMakin, Spell, and Thomas 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 24.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **Adoption of report on House Study Resolution No. 4 of the 2024 Regular Session**

Staff analyst Joey David discussed a document, "House Committee on Retirement report to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana", Exhibit C, contained in the records of this meeting.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the reports. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Carlson, Egan, Illg, McMakin, Spell, and Thomas voted yea.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Adams, Berault, Carlson, Egan, Illg, McMakin, Spell, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Tony Bacala  
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: