

**Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System
Legislative Committee Meeting
May 16, 2019**

The Legislative Committee of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System met on Thursday, May 16, 2019 in the fourth floor conference room of the Retirement Systems Building located at 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Judge William Kleinpeter, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. Roll was called by Beth Labello, recording secretary.

Members present: Mr. Thomas Bickham, Ms. Virginia Burton, Ms. Beverly Hodges, Mr. James Mack (designee of the Treasurer), Mr. Rick McGimsey (designee of the Commissioner), Ms. Barbara McManus, Ms. Lori Pierce, Ms. Shannon Templet, Ms. Lorry Trotter, and Judge William Kleinpeter

Members absent: Ms. Janice Lansing, Senator Barrow Peacock and Representative Kevin Pearson

Staff present: Ms. Cindy Rougeou, Executive Director; Ms. Maris LeBlanc, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer; Mr. Trey Boudreaux, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Steve Stark, Deputy General Counsel; Mr. Artie Fillastre, Chief Fiscal Officer; Ms. Tonja Normand, Public Information Director; Mr. Trey Roche, Statewide Program Manager; Ryan Babin, Audit Director; Mr. Carlos Jones, Retirement Benefits Supervisor; Mr. Jonathan Drago, Retirement Benefits Assistant Administrator; Mr. Greg Byrd, IT Tech Support Manager; Ms. Amanda Celestine, Executive Management Officer; and Ms. Beth Labello, recording secretary

Also present: Mr. Lowell Good, Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office

A quorum was declared present and the meeting opened for business.

Public Comment

Judge Kleinpeter called for public comment. There were no public comments.

Regular Business

Judge Kleinpeter called for approval of the minutes of the April 25, 2019 Legislative Committee meeting. **Ms. Hodges moved, seconded by Ms. McManus, to approve the minutes. With no objection or discussion, the motion carried.**

New Business

Ms. LeBlanc gave a status update on the bills being tracked this session.

HB 28 (Ivey), which would create a new Hybrid Plan, was voluntarily deferred by the author.

HB 29 (R. Johnson), which would remove the increase in insurance premiums for Hazardous Duty Services Plan (Haz Plan) members who transfer service and retire with an unreduced benefit, is scheduled for debate on the House Floor.

HB 392 (Henry), which appropriates \$9,478,184 to LASERS to be applied to the IUAL, was reported favorably in by House Appropriations and passed the House.

Ms. LeBlanc asked for a motion to support HB 392. Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Trotter to support House Bill 392. With no objection or discussion, the motion passed.

SB 9 (Peterson), which deals with employees of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), has passed the Senate Floor.

SB 14 (Peacock) regarding term limits for retirement system boards of trustees has not moved out of the Senate Retirement Committee.

SB 15 (Long), which changes the qualifications for eligibility in the Hazardous Duty Services Plan (HAZ Plan) for firefighters employed by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, is scheduled for debate on the House Floor.

HCR 20 (Jones) and **SCR 34 (Mizell)** each memorialize Congress to consider eliminating the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) Social Security benefit reductions. Both Resolutions have been enrolled.

Ms. LeBlanc discussed **SB 107 (Gatti)**, which is a worker's compensation bill designed to change the consideration of how PTSD is applied as a disability for worker's compensations purposes. Some language that affected how PTSD is applied as a disability for retirement disability was removed from the bill, and it no longer affects LASERS.

There is a Senate Retirement Committee meeting on Monday, May 20, 2019, where they are considering the continuation of reports. Unless action is taken, some reports may sunset.

LASERS budget is up for consideration at the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget today after the House adjourns.

Other Business

There was no further business to discuss.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.