

**Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System  
Legislative Committee Meeting  
February 17, 2022**

The Legislative Committee of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System met on Thursday, February 17, 2022, in the fourth floor Board Room of the Retirement Systems Building, located at 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Mr. Charles Castille, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. Roll was called by Ms. Beth Labello, recording secretary.

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Members present: Ms. Virginia Burton, Mr. Charles Castille, Mr. Byron Decoteau, Ms. Ternisa Hutchinson, Judge William Kleinpeter, Ms. Amy Mathews, Mr. Rick McGimsey (designee of the Commissioner), and Ms. Shannon Templet

Members absent: Mr. Thomas Bickham, Representative Phillip DeVillier, Ms. Barbara McManus, Senator Barrow Peacock, and Mr. John Schroder

Staff present: Ms. Cindy Rougeou, Executive Director; Mr. Trey Boudreaux, Chief of Staff; Mr. Travis McIlwain, Chief Administrative Officer; Ms. Tina Grant, Executive Counsel; Mr. Bobby Beale, Chief Investment Officer; Ms. Tricia Gibbons, Retirement Benefits Administrator; Mr. Ryan Babin, Audit Director; Mr. Artie Fillastre, Chief Fiscal Officer; Mr. Johnathon Sprouse, IT Director; Ms. Tonja Normand, PID Director; Ms. Morgan Robertson, Attorney; Mr. Logan Davis, IT Technical Support Analyst; and Ms. Beth Labello, recording secretary

Also present: Ms. Shelley Johnson, Actuary, Foster & Foster; Mr. Joey David, Legislative Analyst; and Mr. Frank Jobert, RSEA

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

**Public Comment**

Mr. Castille called for public comment. No public comments were made.

### **Regular Business**

Mr. Castille called for approval of the minutes of the January 20, 2022, Legislative Committee meeting. **Ms. Templet moved, seconded by Ms. Mathews, to approve the minutes. With no objection or discussion, the motion carried.**

### **New Business**

Ms. Rougeou gave an update on the COLA study that is continuing to take place. No final recommendations have been made on how to best fund COLAs in the future. Legislation on the matter is expected to be forthcoming in 2023.

Ms. Grant gave an update on the bills LASERS is tracking for the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature, which begins on March 14, 2022.

### **SB 5 – Price**

**Systems Impacted:** LASERS

Provides a nonrecurring supplemental payment to eligible LASERS retirees and beneficiaries.

- Referred to Senate Retirement

**A motion to support this bill was carried at the November 2021 Board Meeting.**

### **HB 19 – DeVillier**

**Systems Impacted:** LASERS

Provides relative to membership in the LASERS Hazardous Duty Services Plan by adding employees of the office of the state fire marshal who are Firefighter I certified and who provide emergency response or who conduct fire and emergency training to the LASERS Hazardous Duty Services Plan.

- Referred to House Retirement

Ms. Grant explained that there will be no costs to LASERS; the Fire Marshall's office and their employees will incur the costs.

**Ms. Templet moved, seconded by Judge Kleinpeter, to support HB 19 by Rep. DeVillier. With no objection or discussion, the motion carried.**

### **HB 25 – McCormick**

**Systems Impacted:** State and Statewide

Prohibits retirement systems from investing in companies with policies that prohibit doing business with or investing in energy companies.

- Referred to House Retirement

Mr. Beale explained how this legislation could potentially restrict investment opportunities for LASERS.

**Judge Kleinpeter moved, seconded by Ms. Templet, to oppose HB 25 by Rep. McCormick. With no objection or discussion, the motion carried.**

## **HB 29 – Nelson**

### **Systems Impacted: State**

Proposes a constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters on Nov. 8, 2022, would require a minimum of 50% of all nonrecurring state revenues be applied to the UALs of LASERS, TRSL, LSERS and LSPRS beginning in FY 23-24.

- Referred to House Appropriations

Ms. Grant explained that current law states that UALs get 10% of all nonrecurring state revenues, so this would be an increase in funds for LASERS.

**Judge Kleinpeter moved, seconded by Ms. Mathews, to support HB 29 by Rep. Nelson. With no objection or discussion, the motion carried.**

## **HB 31 – Tarver, P.**

### **Systems Impacted: State**

Proposes a constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters on Nov. 8, 2022, would direct nonrecurring state revenue funds to provide a nonrecurring lump-sum payment to eligible retirees of the systems. The appropriation for such benefit would be a total of either \$50 million or the balance of nonrecurring funds after allocations are made against UAL liabilities and for the Budget Stabilization Fund, whichever is less.

- Referred to House Appropriations

Ms. Grant explained that this legislation proposes a constitutional amendment, which would create a non-recurring lump sum payment to eligible retirees of the four state retirement systems. Eligible retirees include those who have retired and have been receiving a benefit for the past fiscal year.

**Ms. Templet moved, seconded by Judge Kleinpeter, to support HB 31 by Rep. Tarver. With no objection or discussion, the motion carried.**

## **HB 32 – Tarver, P.**

### **Systems Impacted: State**

Requires PRSAC to report to the legislature regarding the number of retirees who are eligible for the supplemental benefit provided for by HB 31.

- Referred to House Retirement

Ms. Grant explained that HB 31 and HB 32 work hand in hand, where PRSAC will report the information in HB 31 to the legislature.

**Ms. Templet moved, seconded by Judge Kleinpeter, to support HB 32 by Rep. Tarver. With no objection or discussion, the motion carried.**

The Committee discussed the new LASERS Retirement Plan, which has not been filed yet, and therefore does not have a bill number. The bill draft contains the following language, based on discussions with the Governor:

- Removes the requirement that LASERS be 65% funded to trigger a COLA
- Specifies that disability retirees and survivor beneficiaries are entitled to the COLA

- Includes at least three opt out notices for new members, at varying intervals
- Requires mandatory retirement education for new hires, within one year of their hire date
- Defines the plan as one plan, with two components, that annuitizes together within a defined benefit, upon retirement

Ms. Rougeou answered questions from past meetings, including what the survivor and disability retirement benefits would look like, and whether members would be able repay a refund under this new plan. She stated that Senator Ed Price agreed to author the bill.

**Ms. Templet moved, seconded by Judge Kleinpeter, to support the LASERS new Retirement Plan bill. With no objection, the motion carried.**

### **Other Business**

There was no further business to discuss.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.