

**Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System  
Legislative Committee Meeting  
March 24, 2022**

The Legislative Committee of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System met on Thursday, March 24, 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 2:35 p.m. Roll was called by Ms. Beth Labello, recording secretary.

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Members present: Mr. Thomas Bickham, 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), Ms. Barbara McManus, and Mr. Philip Qualls (designee of the Treasurer)

Members absent: Senator Barrow Peacock, Representative Phillip DeVillier, and Ms. Shannon Templet

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. Artie Fillastre, Chief Fiscal Officer; Mr. Ryan Babin, Audit Director; Mr. Johnathon Sprouse, IT Director; Ms. Tonja Normand, PID Director; Mr. Steve Stark, Deputy General Counsel; Ms. Morgan Robertson, Attorney; Ms. Megan Jones, Retirement Benefits Supervisor; Mr. Barney Miller, IT Technical Support; Ms. Amanda Celestine, Executive Management Officer; and Ms. Beth Labello, recording secretary

Also present: Ms. Shelley Johnson, Foster & Foster; Mr. Frank Jobert, RSEA; and Mr. Julius Roberson, Investments Operations Manager, Treasurer's Office

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

**Public Comment**

Ms. Rougeou welcomed back Mr. Qualls, who is one of the Treasurer's designees. She introduced Mr. Julius Roberson, who is also from the Treasurer's office.

### **Regular Business**

Mr. Castille called for approval of the minutes of the February 17, 2022 Legislative Committee meeting. **Ms. Mathews moved, seconded by Judge Kleinpeter, to approve the minutes. With no objection or discussion, the motion carried.**

### **New Business**

Ms. Grant provided a status update on the bills being tracked this session.

#### **SB 5 – Price**

##### **Systems Impacted: LASERS**

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

- Referred to Senate Retirement

Ms. Rougeou stated that Senator Peacock has expressed concern about the maximum payment amount of \$3,000.

#### **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 presented two new bills for the Legislative Committee to recommend a position to the Board, as follows:

**HB 592 (Zeringue)**, which Makes supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 – allocates an additional \$21.8 million to LASERS to apply to the balance of the Unfunded Accrued Liability.

**Judge Kleinpeter moved, seconded by Ms. McManus, to support HB 592 by Rep. Zeringue. With no objection or discussion, and one abstention by Mr. Qualls, the motion carried.**

**HCR 11 (Johnson)**, which urges and requests the legislatures of each state of the United States to pass similar resolutions calling upon Congress to support actions as necessary to review and eliminate the WEP and GPO.

**Judge Kleinpeter moved, seconded by Ms. Mathews, to support HCR 11 by Rep. Johnson. With no objection or discussion, the motion carried.**

Ms. Grant stated that Rep. Bacala has agreed to co-author the new retirement plan bill, along with Sen. Price.

Ms. Grant provided information on other bills which are of interest to LASERS, as follows:

- **HB 213 (Miller)**, which provides for the automatic revocation of certain beneficiary designations for certain retirement accounts and insurance policies upon divorce. This bill was referred to the House Civil Law and Procedure Committee.
- **HB 259 (Magee)**, which calls for a limited constitutional convention that would allow proposed substantive changes to Article X (Public Officials and Employees) and other articles. This bill was referred to House and Governmental Affairs.
- **HB 420 (Miller)**, which provides for the automatic revocation of certain beneficiary designations for certain retirement accounts and insurance policies upon divorce. This bill passed favorably in House and Governmental Affairs, as amended.

Ms. Grant stated that Rep. DeVillier and Sen. Price have asked that the four state systems get together to do a brief educational summary of the retirement plans and basic terminology, at the next House Retirement meeting.

### **Other Business**

Ms. Robertson gave a brief description of her and Ms. Grant's trip to Washington, DC on March 2-3, 2022, to meet with the Louisiana Delegation regarding the WEP and GPO. They met with various members of Congress and their staff to discuss concerns about both the WEP and GPO and the pending legislation to eliminate or improve both provisions

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.