

**Louisiana State Employees Retirement System  
Legislative Committee Meeting  
March 23, 2023**

The Legislative Committee of the Louisiana State Employees Retirement System met on Thursday, March 23, 2023, 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 2:20 p.m. Roll was called by Ms. Beth Labello, recording secretary.

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Members present: Mr. Thomas Bickham, Mr. John Broussard (designee of the Treasurer), Ms. Virginia Burton, Mr. Charles Castille, Ms. Ternisa Hutchinson, Judge William Kleinpeter, Ms. Amy Mathews, Mr. Rick McGimsey (designee of the Commissioner), Ms. Barbara McManus, and Ms. Shannon Templet.

Members absent: Mr. Byron Decoteau, Representative Barry Ivey, and Senator Barrow Peacock

Staff present: 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; Ms. Mallory Sharp, PID Director; Mr. Johnathon Sprouse, IT Director; Mr. Steve Stark, Deputy General Counsel; Ms. Morgan Robertson, Attorney; Ms. Megan Jones, Retirement Benefits Supervisor; Mr. Barney Miller, IT Technical Support Analyst; Mr. Logan Davis, IT Technical Support Analyst; Ms. Amanda Celestine, Executive Management Officer; and Ms. Beth Labello, recording secretary

Also present: Ms. Shelley Johnson, Foster & Foster, and Mr. Joey David, Legislative Analyst

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

**Public Comment**

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

## **Regular Business**

Mr. Castille called for approval of the minutes of the February 16, 2023, Legislative Committee meeting. **Mr. Bickham moved, seconded by Ms. McManus, 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 18 – Sen. Price & Cortez**

**Position Taken: Support**

Systems Impacted: State

Reforms the mechanism by which COLAs/PBIs are granted.

### **HB 47 – Rep. Nelson**

Systems Impacted: State

*Constitutional Amendment*

Proposes a constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters on Oct. 14, 2023, would require a minimum of 25% of all nonrecurring state revenues to be applied to the UALs of the state systems beginning in FY 24-25.

Ms. Grant asked the Legislative Committee to recommend a position to the Board on HB 47.

**Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Mr. Bickham, to recommend the Board support HB 47 by Rep. Nelson. With no objection or discussion, the motion carried.**

Ms. Robertson gave an update on the WEP and GPO reform efforts. Previously, Ms. Robertson spoke to the Committee about the latest efforts in Congress to repeal or revise the WEP/GPO. There was some movement on HR 82 (Social Security Fairness Act) of the 117th Congress. It had garnered enough signatures to be put on the consensus calendar\*; however, at the last hour, the committee elected to take it up in a hearing, thereby delaying progress.

Since the last update, Congress has entered a new session. An identical bill has been filed this year, with the same number – HR 82 of the 118th Congress. Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) and Rep. Garrett Graves sponsor this year's bill, which has 204 co-sponsors as of March 23, 2023.

The Senate's Social Security Fairness Act version has also been reintroduced. This session, it is S. 597 and was filed by Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio).

- S. 597 – Introduced in the Senate (3/1/23) [36 Cosponsors]

\*Note on US House bill passage: The bill can either go through the typical process to get to a vote (i.e., be voted out of committee) or the sponsor of a bill that has accumulated 290 cosponsors and has not been reported by the committee may present to the clerk a motion in writing to place that measure on the consensus calendar.

### **Opposition to repeal –**

Opposition to efforts to repeal WEP/GPO attests that it is too costly. There is an \$8 - \$10 billion annual cost to repeal the WEP/GPO (\$150 billion through 2031).

**Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.



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