



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

Recap of the 2009 Regular Session

The 2009 Regular Legislative Session ended at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2009. Although many of the bills that were opposed by LRTA did not pass, and those bills that LRTA supported were enacted by the Legislature, the membership now has some work to do on the subject of future benefit increases to be provided by TRSL. Senate Bill No. 296 alters the mechanism by which future permanent benefit adjustments may be granted, and a summary of the provisions of the bill is provided in this issue. Listed below is the final outcome of the legislation that was monitored by LRTA.

House Bill No. 114 by Representative Hardy regarding retirees returning to work was deferred by the House Retirement Committee on 5/13/09.

House Bill No. 230 by Representative Arnold and Representative Tucker regarding the consolidation of the administrative and policy making functions of the boards of trustees of the four state retirement systems was voluntarily deferred by the authors of the legislation at the House Retirement Committee meeting held 5/20/09.

House Bill No. 357 by Representative Arnold and Representative Tucker requiring the four state retirement systems to direct fifty percent (50%) of the commissions on certain equity trades through Louisiana brokers-dealers failed to pass the House Retirement Committee on 5/20/09.

House Bill No. 584 by Representative Tucker placing a moratorium on DROP participation by members of the state retirement systems from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012 was voluntarily deferred by Representative Tucker at the House Retirement Committee meeting held 5/20/09.

House Bill No. 586 by Representative Doerge and others provides for a minimum benefit payment to retirees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System up to \$1,200 per month. A summary of this bill is provided in this issue of the Newsletter. House Bill No. 586 has been signed by the governor and has become Act No. 144.

House Bill No. 848 by Representative Patricia Smith and Senator Murray providing for health insurance premiums of retirees of schools that were transferred to the Recovery School District was deferred by the House Education Committee on 6/2/09.

Senate Bill No. 42 by Senator Murray dedicating state funds for the purpose of providing health insurance premium supplements to retirees from school boards located in hurricane affected areas was deferred by the House Appropriations Committee on 6/21/09. The provisions of this bill were amended to House Bill No. 364 which failed to pass the Senate.

Senate Bill No. 296 by Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux and Representative Robideaux provides for future payments of the unfunded accrued liabilities of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System. The bill also amends provisions of the Employee Experience Accounts of the two retirement system, and uses current balances in the accounts on June 30, 2009 to make an initial payment to the retirement systems on the initial unfunded accrued liabilities. A summary of the legislation is provided in this issue. This bill was passed by the Legislature on 6/24/09, and signed by the governor on 7/10/09. It has become Act No. 497.

House Concurrent Study Resolution No. 1 by Representative Tucker requests the House and Senate Retirement Committees to meet as a joint committee to study the feasibility of the state retirement systems of offering a defined contribution plan for future members of the four systems. The resolution was passed by the Legislature on 5/11/09.

House Resolution No. 82 by Representative Arnold requests the House Committees on Commerce and Retirement to jointly study issues regarding the possible requirement that every state public retirement or pension system, plan, or fund direct a certain percentage of its equity and fixed income trades to Louisiana broker-dealers. The resolution was passed by the House on 6/24/09.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 by Representative Hoffman memorializes the U. S. Congress to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision of the Social Security Administration. The resolution was passed by the Legislature on 5/6/09.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 164 by Representative Patricia Smith and others requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the provision of health insurance premiums for retirees and to consider in the study impacts that declining student populations and natural disasters have on systems in regard to health insurance premiums. The resolution was passed by the Legislature on 6/25/09.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 32 by Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux memorializes the U. S. Congress to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision of the Social Security Administration. The resolution was passed by the Legislature on 5/12/09.

For additional information on these and other legislative instruments considered during the 2009 Regular Legislative Session visit www.legis.state.la.us, the website of the Louisiana legislature.