



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

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www.LRTA.net

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 (now Act No. 497) 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 broker-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 is now Act No. 144.

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2009 Fall Meeting – Allons a Lafayette!

Make plans to attend the LRTA Fall Meeting in Lafayette. The meeting, hosted by LRTA District V, will take place October 19-21 at the Holiday Inn Lafayette, located at 2032 NE Evangeline Thruway. The theme of the meeting will be *Harvesting Knowledge for the Challenges of the 21st Century*. District V President James Broussard, Host Committee Co-Chairs Jerry Caillier and Bonnie Lyons, and LRTA State Program Chair Felix Johnson are working closely with the LRTA staff to provide interesting programs and activities for the meeting. Fall Meetings held in Lafayette have always had LRTA's largest attendance, and we hope this year to beat all expectations.

A special hotel room convention group rate of \$79 per night (\$89 for atrium rooms), plus tax, has been negotiated with the Holiday Inn Lafayette for LRTA attendees. Cut-off date for this special rate is October 6, 2009. To make a room reservation, call the Holiday Inn Lafayette directly at (337) 233-6815. Be sure to ask for the special LRTA convention rate.

Use the form on page 8 of this newsletter to register for attendance at the Fall Meeting. On-site registration will be available, but pre-registration will ensure you a packet with a pre-printed name tag and other meeting materials. Attendance at the evening banquet functions on Monday, October 19 and Tuesday, October 20 are by pre-reservation only. Register today!

See you in Lafayette on October 19, 20 and 21!

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From the Desk of the President



Dr. Hugh C. Craft

The Legislative Session that ended June 25 was a hectic one. LRTA was pleased to see some bills opposed by the association fail. The consolidation of the major state retirement systems did not pass. A victory for long-time retirees,

those with 30 years of service will have their monthly pension brought up to \$1,200 with a maximum increase of \$300 per month. The big disappointment for the session was SB 296. It zeroes out the Employee Experience Account, which was created to pool funds for cost-of-living adjustments. SB 296 originated in the Senate, and was supported by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana's Board of Trustees, including the retiree representatives on the Board, with Board action and testimony of support before the House and Senate Retirement Committees. The Senate Retirement Committee voted in favor of SB 296 which also passed the Senate with one vote to spare. The House Retirement Committee and the House of Representatives also passed SB 296. As a

group we have written emails, letters and made telephone calls to Governor Jindal's office urging him to veto the bill. Governor Jindal signed SB 296 into law on July 10, and it became Act 497 of 2009.

LRTA leaders have already begun to gear up with strategies to change this legislation at the next session of the Louisiana Legislature. We will seek to meet with Senate Retirement Committee Chairman Butch Gautreaux, House Retirement Committee Chairman Joel Robideaux, and any other group of legislators to promote legislation that will be user friendly to retirees. With Act 497, there are so many hoops to jump through and so many unrealistic restrictions to meet, a permanent benefit increase would not occur any time in the near future. All retirees must band together to urge every legislator to step up to the plate to sponsor user friendly retirement legislation for the 2010 Legislative Session. Over a 52-year period from 1936 - 1988, the State of Louisiana did not pay its share to support full funding of TRSL. If the state had paid its share, then the Initial Unfunded Accrued Liability would not exist as it does today.

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Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

The 2009 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature had its high points and its low points. LRTA Day at the Capitol held on May 28 was well attended, and everyone who participated enjoyed the opportunity to visit with legislators, and

also enjoyed the fellowship shared with one another. Our oldest retirees with the lowest benefits will get a bit of a boost from Act No. 144. The bills dealing with the consolidation of TRSL with other state retirement systems, and a mandate on the placement of trades of certain stocks held in TRSL's portfolio, failed to receive legislative approval.

Our low points this year were not being able to receive a cost-of-living adjustment, and the

passage of Senate Bill No. 296 (Act No. 497) dealing with future permanent benefit increases. Dr. Craft urged Governor Jindal to veto the bill, and information about the veto request can be reviewed on LRTA's web site: www.lrta.net. Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux, Chairman of the Senate Retirement Committee and Representative Joel Robideaux, Chairman of the House Retirement Committee have both indicated they are interested in studying how future benefit increases can be granted by TRSL, and developing a more stable mechanism to do so. Your LRTA board and staff members stand ready to assist in this process and look forward to future discussions regarding your future benefit increases. I want to personally thank all of you for getting involved and communicating your concerns about Senate Bill No. 296 to members of your legislative delegations.

The legislature has also requested the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
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LRTA Executive Board

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Youngsville, LA 70592

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18918 Beaujolaes Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

Act No. 497 of 2009 Impacts Future Benefit Increases

Act No. 497 (Senate Bill No. 296) addresses two very important issues for members of LRTA and all retired educators. The bill restructures the method by which the state's future payments will be made to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) and the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS) in order to provide full funding of both those retirement systems by 2029, as is required by the constitution. New payment schedules to address the unfunded accrued liabilities of both the retirement systems are established by the legislation. To make required payments less expensive in the future, an initial payment will be made on July 1, 2009.

The funds for this initial payment will come from three special accounts at TRSL: the Texaco Settlement Account (funds allocated to the retirement system awarded to the state through the

courts as a result of litigation against Texaco pertaining to off-shore extraction of natural resources), the Employer Credit Account (funds placed into an account to lower employer contributions to the retirement system in years when the contribution rate exceeds 15.5%), and the Employee Experience Account designed to provide for future cost-of-living adjustments to eligible retirees. The legislation sweeps the balances from similar accounts held at LASERS.

LRTA continues to support full funding of TRSL. The association, however, opposed the bill based upon the elimination of approximately \$290 million from the TRSL Employee Experience Account. The legislation also addresses the mechanism by which future COLAs will be granted. Under the new provisions governing payments from the account outlined in the legislation:

- The term "cost-of-living adjustment" is changed to "permanent benefit increase",
- The Employee Experience Account remains, and will have funds deposited to its credit when TRSL, on an actuarial basis earns over 8.25%, and after the first \$200 million is debited from the excess earnings,
- The first \$100 million will be returned to TRSL for credit toward payment of the initial unfunded accrued liability,
- The second \$100 million will be credited toward payment of the unfunded accrued liability that was created when the Employee Experience Account negative balance was eliminated in 2004,
- In years when the investment returns are 8.25% or greater, and when sufficient funds are available in the account, TRSL may grant a permanent

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TRSL Update

1-877-275-8775

Adjustment in IRS tax table changes withholding taxes for some TRSL retirees

Starting with the July 2009 retirement benefits, TRSL began using a new federal income tax adjustment table that may have changed the tax amount withheld from retiree checks. To help retirees understand how their benefits may have been affected, here's information about the new adjustment.

Earlier this year, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued revised federal tax withholding tables that incorporated the Making Work Pay Tax Credit, one of the key provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

This was designed to provide immediate economic relief for taxpayers by lowering the amount of federal taxes taken out of their paychecks. The revised IRS tables applied to everyone—even pension plans. TRSL implemented the revised tables on April 1, 2009.

However, the Making Work Pay Tax Credit was meant only for wage earners, and most pension recipients do not earn wages. As a result, there was a possibility that the revised tables associated with the tax credit would cause some pensioners to receive smaller tax refunds or possibly owe taxes at the end of the year. This situation greatly concerned pension plans nationwide.

To address this issue, the IRS provided an optional adjustment procedure for pension plans. The new adjustment procedure is designed to make withholding tables more accurate for pension recipients. It is TRSL's understanding that the new procedure will revert pensioner withholding back, or close to, what was being withheld prior to use of the revised tables implemented in April.

Although the optional adjustment procedure is not required, TRSL chose to

implement it effective July 1, 2009, due to concern that our retirees might under withhold or possibly owe taxes at the end of the year.

If you have any questions regarding the federal withholding taxes deducted from your pension, please contact TRSL at 225-925-6446 or toll free at 1-877-275-8775. Inquiries may also be e-mailed to TRSL at web.master@trsl.org.

Retired members who would like to change their federal income tax withholdings can do so through TRSL's online [Member Access](http://www.trsl.org) at www.trsl.org, or by submitting a new [Form W-4P](#) from the IRS, which is also available on the TRSL website. To have Form W-4P mailed to you, please contact TRSL.

*Lisa Honore
Public Information Director
Teachers' Retirement
System of Louisiana*

Membership

The field is ripe for harvest! There is a flock of new retirees around the state. All these potential members are out there just waiting for you to invite them to become LRTA members. When they realize that TRSL has given our future COLA raises away, and the Legislature gladly took it in Act 497, retirees should not only get mad, but they should support LRTA's efforts to fight for future permanent benefit increases.

We have enjoyed good growth in membership this year, but the poten-

tial is still there for much more. Retired teachers must band together for the future. Every retired teacher and active teacher should give their attention to what LRTA is trying to do. Did I say active teachers? YES, for a mere \$10, every active teacher can become an associate member of LRTA. That \$10 entitles them to all the services provided by LRTA and also to access AMBA benefits, which they can check out on LRTA's website, www.lrta.net. Active teachers will be retiring in the future, and can then become active LRTA members.

Our very future depends on all retirees getting involved. Don't sit around and wait for someone else to help you – help yourself! Get involved today! Sign up those new retirees and as many associate members as you can. Sign up those old retirees who just haven't bothered to get involved. We need to get every educator involved in LRTA. Get started gang!

*Rupert E. Breland
LRTA First Vice President and
State Membership Chair*

LRTA Foundation Notes

The LRTA Foundation Board extends best regards to you during this warm and sometimes hot summer season. Plans are already gearing up for the LRTA Fall Meeting in Lafayette, Louisiana. Hopefully, we will have a well-attended event. District V President James Broussard and his local units in the district are planning festive activities in October. Currently, we are determining what prizes to be offered in the Foundation fall meeting giveaway. Any district, local unit, business, or individual may supply an item for this giveaway.

Contact me by email at craftcrew@bell-south.net or call me at 504.451.4248 if you can help. This activity raises money for Foundation projects.

For you who have computers, you may log on the LRTA website at www.lrta.net and click on the LRTA Foundation link to see the activities and functions of the Foundation. You will find those individuals, districts, local units and companies that have made donations to the Foundation from October 2008 to May 2009 listed on the web-

site. Donors since the Spring Meeting will be recognized at the Fall Meeting in Lafayette. All donors are invited to join the Walk for the Foundation at the Lafayette meeting.

Please continue to support LRTA, the Foundation, your district and your local units. This is what builds a strong, connected organization that makes a difference in the lives of retired educators. Your support speaks volumes as we continue to grow and expand.

*Dr. Hugh Craft
President, LRTA Foundation*

From the Desk of the President

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LRTA will remain focused on the issues that impact its membership. The legislative session has created a big challenge for us. We are ready, willing and able to meet it head on. At this time we are updating the LRTA website to include information on Act 497 and other legislative matters. Log on to the website for more information at: www.lrta.net. You will find this information under the link entitled, "LRTA & The Legislature." Thanks to all of you that were involved in visiting the Legislature, making phone calls, sending emails and writing letters. Working together in the days, weeks and months ahead, we can strive to make retirement years great!

Executive Director's Report

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to study issues related to school boards providing adequate assistance with the payment of health insurance premiums for retirees. LRTA supported measures to provide funding for this effort, but all attempts by members of the legislature to provide assistance during the fiscal year that began on July 1 failed to pass.

So, we move ahead. The staff has already had a very fruitful meeting with members of District V regarding the upcoming Fall Meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn in Lafayette—October 19, 20, and 21. Mark the dates on your calendar, and anticipate receiving more information about meeting plans in the next issue of the *LRTA Newsletter*.

Repeal of GPO/WEP

Sign the petition to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. Go to www.petitiononline.com/ssoffset/petition.html. Then click on the box provided to sign the petition. The petition currently has nearly 170,000 signatures. Consider adding your name to the list.

Act No. 144 Provides for Benefit Increases

House Bill No. 586 providing for minimum benefit payments to select retirees has been signed into law, and has become Act No. 144. The act provides for a maximum increase in a retiree's benefit of \$300 per month to bring that retiree's benefit closer to, or up to the minimum benefit of \$1,200 per month. Retirees will receive the monthly increase if:

- The retiree has at least 30 years of service credited with TRSL, exclusive of unused leave credited at the time of retirement,
- The retiree has been retired for at least 15 years,
- The retiree currently receives a monthly benefit less than \$1,200 per month,
- The retiree is at least age 60, and
- The retiree did not participate in the deferred retirement option plan (DROP) prior to retirement, or select an initial lump sum benefit (ILSB) at the time of retirement.

Beneficiaries will be eligible to receive a benefit increase if the deceased retiree and the beneficiary have been receiving benefits for at least fifteen years, and all other conditions would have been met by the deceased retiree.

It is estimated that 729 TRSL retirees or their beneficiaries will receive these minimum benefit increases. The benefit increases will be effective July 1, and paid for from the balance in the Employee Experience Account. Those retirees eligible to receive the benefit increase will notice the increase in their August benefit payment, and the payment will be made retroactive to July.

AARP National Day of Service

AARP national and state offices will observe the National Day of Service on September 11, 2009. Each year AARP sponsors the National Day of Service, a day when volunteers across the country will be out in local communities providing hands-on service and outreach.

This year, AARP national will focus on self-directed community volunteering around the theme, "Create the Good." However, individual state offices have an option of determining their own civic engagement opportunities.

The staff at the AARP Louisiana office is busy developing service options to be offered by the Louisiana State Office of AARP. For more information, or to request a project registration packet, contact Daryl Blacher at 1.866.448.3620, or email DBlacher@aarp.org.

Act No. 497 (continued)

benefit increase up to 3% when the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) is 3% or greater for the previous calendar year. If the CPI-U is less than 3%, then the permanent benefit increase will be the increase in the CPI-U. This represents no change from the previous law.

- In years when investment returns do not exceed 8.25%, but TRSL is at least 80% funded, a 2% permanent benefit increase may be granted if the CPI-U is at least 2%. Previous law contained the 2% cap in years when investments did not exceed 8.25%.
- No permanent benefit increase will be paid in years when TRSL is not at least 80% funded and fails to earn an 8.25% return on investments computed on an actuarial basis.
- If the balance in the Employee Experience Account is not sufficient to cover the full cost of the permanent benefit increase, then the increase cannot be granted. The law does not allow for the payment of partial permanent benefit increases.

Eligible recipients of a permanent benefit increase under the new provisions:

- Must be retired for at least one year
- Must be at least age 60 (increased from age 55)
- Beneficiaries will be eligible to receive the increase in benefits if these same provisions would have been met by the deceased retiree.

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Megan Hookey named VP of NRTA

Megan Stevens Hookey has been named vice president of NRTA: *AARP's Educator Community*. In her role as vice president, Ms. Hookey will oversee the management and the day-to-day operations of the NRTA staff. Mr. Hop Backus, Executive Vice President for AARP State Operations, and Megan's boss, had some very fitting words to describe Megan's qualifications and capabilities. In his announcement of the appointment, he said: "I believe Megan is an asset to state and local Retired Educator Associations... She is a solid and creative leader, and is deeply committed to finding mutually beneficial opportunities for strong working relationships between REAs, AARP state offices and NRTA." Many of you know Megan. She has spoken at some of our past Spring and Fall meetings. Congratulations Megan from your friends in Louisiana! The Executive Board, staff, and membership of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association look forward to working with you in your new capacity.

In Memoriam

"...these immortal dead who live again in minds made better by their presence."

Deceased Retired Teachers May 27, 2009 through July 8, 2009

District I

Anthony Griffin – Phoenix
Helen Melancon Grimes – New Orleans
Lydia LeBlanc – New Orleans
Edgar H. Mims – New Orleans
Gordon A. Saussy – New Orleans
Katherine Wakefield – New Orleans
Fannie K. Yokor – New Orleans

District II

Jerry N. Bagwell – Kenner
Elizabeth Y. Bates – Kenner
Seymour H. Bienvenu – Metairie
Jimmy Broussard – Raceland
Rose Marie Burke – Vacherie
Mae Champagne – Houma
Grace R. Coit – Houma
Helen Gravois – Vacherie
Geraldine E. Holland – LaPlace
Marilyn D. Orth – Metairie
Patricia F. Perrin – Gray
Mona C. Reed – Kenner
Donna A. Smith – Waggaman
Marian S. Vlosich - Gretna

District III

Lavina T. Andrus – Covington
Nancy Hayes Bass – Hammond
Rose Marie Hawthorne – Greensburg
Julius P. Palone – Mandeville
Victor A. Santi – Covington
Natalie P. Simms – Denham Springs
Mearl M. Simpson - Loranger

District IV

Mary L. Auzenne – Baton Rouge
Myrtle L. Bailey – Baton Rouge
Geraldine Bennett – Baton Rouge
Yvonne B. Bradford – Baton Rouge
Edna B. Brashier – Baton Rouge
John E. Brown – Baton Rouge
Wade W. Dearman – Baton Rouge
Rosanne K. Dodgen – Baton Rouge
Norma Jean Doucet – Baton Rouge
Hazel J. Freeman – Baton Rouge
Margie O. Hanna – Baton Rouge
Frances P. Holliday – Baton Rouge
Elisha R. Lewis – Baton Rouge
George E. Mencer, Jr. – Baton Rouge
Johnnie E. Merrick – Baton Rouge
Ralph L. Schmidt – Baton Rouge
Wanda H. Thom – Baton Rouge
Clellan C. Thomas – Baton Rouge
Fanny K. Thompson – Baton Rouge
Johnye Welch – Baton Rouge

District V

Dorothy R. Cormier – Carencro
Huey P. Fitch – Lafayette
Sarah B. Larson – New Iberia
Marie F. Miguez – Lafayette
Bernetta H. Moore – St. Martinville

District VI

Alice H. Crawford – DeRidder
Mildred T. Davis – Jennings
Sybil McCall – Cameron
Beverly O'Brien – Jennings
Betty I. Rice – Lake Charles
Gretchen S. Tadlock – Lake Charles
Rudell S. Voorhies – Crowley
James C. Watson – Lake Charles

District VII

Darlene D. Deshotels – Alexandria
James C. Doucet – Cottonport

District VIII

Patricia H. Dennis – Natchitoches
Vera Lee Franklin – Mansfield
Ellen I. Guidry – Many
Rogers P. Loupe – Noble

District X

Oakland B. Adams – Farmerville
Dorth Blade – Monroe
Sharon A. Brooks – Choudrant
Creola H. Green – Monroe
Carolyn Kennedy – Monroe
Zenovia Perkins – West Monroe
Richard L. Venable – Monroe
Leornest Watley – Bernice
Doris S. Welch – Monroe
Vera N. Williams – Monroe

District XI

Clyde F. Baxter – Homer
Nevelyn S. Dennis – Shreveport
Shirtee Evans – Homer
Rounia Hill – Shreveport
Blanche Trent – Shreveport
Joyce Quinn Walker – Haughton
Flora Weber – Bossier City

Out of State

Ruall Jordan Arrington – Clearwater, FL
Re S. Attuquayefio, Sr. – Plano, TX
Marion A. Boykin – Roland, AR
Bob Glen Burford – Wilmington, NC
Anthony J. Canale – Woodstock, GA
Shirley H. Crawford – Houston, TX

Sadie B. H. Davis – Florissant, MO
Mary T. Ervin – Anaheim, CA
Myrtis D. Grayson – Dallas, TX
Dorothy Hall – Kerens, TX
Linda Kathleen Hamilton – Emery, SC
John R. Hebert – Houston, TX
Lawrence Humphrey – Tallahassee, FL
Pauline L. Johnson –

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
Kenneth H. Kennedy – Lillian, AL
William Mayfield – Louisville, KY
George Ella Norman – Denver, CO
Larney E. Owens, Jr. – Fairburn, GA
Margaret M. Parker – Amarillo, TX
Alma S. Perret – Jacksonville, FL
Preston J. Premeaux – Las Vegas, NV
Emzie H. Ramsey – Apple Valley, CA
Eola L. Reid – Evans, GA
Mabel H. Santa Marina – Enterprise, MS
Camille W. Schmidt – Eagleville, TN
Eldridge W. J. Steptoe – Liberty, MS
Audrey M. Swanson – Orlando, FL
Genva Thompson – Austin, TX
Francis L. Yeldell – Simpsonville, SC

Act No. 497 (continued)

Act No. 497 was opposed by both the LRTA and the Retired State Employees Association because of the future impact the legislation will have on the ability of the retirement systems to grant permanent benefit increases.

LRTA President Craft, on behalf of the LRTA membership, wrote letters to the editors of all major daily newspapers in the state, and corresponded with Governor Jindal requesting the veto of the legislation. This information, along with the actual text of Act No. 497 has been included on LRTA's website, www.lrta.net, under the link entitled, "LRTA & the Legislature."



LRTA members enjoy Day at the Capitol activities on May 28, 2009.



Representative Joel C. Robideaux, Chairman of the House Retirement Committee, addresses LRTA members from the capitol steps.

Recap of Session *(continued from page 1)*

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 systems, 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 is now Act No. 497 of 2009.

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 offering a defined contribution plan for future members of the four state retirement 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 the impacts that declining student populations and natural disasters have on systems in regard to the provision of 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.

L.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER

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Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Telephone (225) 927-8837
Toll-Free (888) 531-1992
E-mail Info@LRTA.net
Web www.LRTA.net

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LRTA STAFF

Graig A. Luscombe
Executive Director

Renée M. Siccone
Assistant Director

Ann S. Reed
Membership Services Coordinator

OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

TRSL (Retirement Benefits and Check) (225) 925-6446
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 1-877-275-8775

Office of Group Benefits (225) 925-6625
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 1-800-272-8451

Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) 1-800-258-7041

LRTA Office (225) 927-8837
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 1-888-531-1992
Fax..... (225) 927-8838

2009 FALL MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2009 Fall Meeting in order to expedite registration in Lafayette. To make a reservation for the pre-convention dinner on Monday, October 19, and/or for the convention banquet on Tuesday, October 20, indicate in the space provided and send a check for the appropriate amount. **Each person pre-registering and/or reserving a meal ticket should return a separate form** in order to receive a registration packet. Guests may use the form in order to have a registration packet. (Photocopies acceptable.)

Name: _____ Social Security No. _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ E-mail _____

____ Attendance only, no fee

____ Number of tickets for Monday night Pre-Convention Dinner (\$26 per person) = \$ _____
Entrée choice (please choose one of the following)

____ Grilled Catfish topped with Crawfish Etouffee, or

____ Roasted Pork Tenderloin

____ Number of tickets for Tuesday night Convention Banquet (\$24 per person) = \$ _____
(Seafood-Stuffed Chicken Breast)

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Note: Pre-registration/dinner reservations must be received in the LRTA office by **October 9, 2009**. Registration will be available at the meeting; however, meal function tickets are sold by pre-reservation only. No meal reservations will be taken by phone. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN for cancellations after October 15.** Mail forms and checks to LRTA, 9412 Common St., Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.