

Louisiana Retired
Teachers Association

LEGISLATIVE EDITION

RESPONDING TO NEGATIVE PRESS

This Legislative Session had many bills on retirement that were reported both negatively and positively by the press, statewide. Naturally, we are pleased when we read accurate articles that report favorably on legislation that affects retirees. However, many legislators are pushing for a complete reform to our current retirement benefit plan and are critical of any measure that would be described as an additional expenditure to the state.

How do we respond to that type of negative press?

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The 2016 Regular Legislative Session ended on June 6, at 6 p.m. This year, LRTA has been enormously successful in passing positive legislation that benefits our members and opposing/blocking bills that could change or reduce our benefits.

This was not accomplished through a single event or even within the regular legislative session. Rather, I like to think of our success as a result of a 'year of activism'. When I look back on my first month in this position last July, I was immediately catapulted into political meetings at the capitol with Senator Guillory with a focus on the future of our retirement systems. Just as quickly we were ushered into a political election where voters upset the applecart and elected a governor that supports teachers—and perhaps more importantly—retirees and

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LOOK INSIDE TO FIND OUT WHAT IS NEW WITH LRTA!

A MESSAGE FROM LRTA'S NEW PRESIDENT!

Full summary of the 2016 Legislative Session

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! FALL MEETING IS AROUND THE CORNER!

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(Pictured is Governor John Bel Edwards signing the COLA Bill into law on 5/19/16. Present were, from left: Sen. Page Cortez, Sen. Gerald Boudreaux, Lynda Guidry, Rep. Kevin Pearson, Sen. Barrow Peacock, Sen. Beth Mizell, Sen. Gerald Long, Sen. John Milkovich, Rodney Watson, Marcus Fontenot and Victor Dennis. PHOTO CREDIT: Janis Hernandez)

LEGISLATIVE EDITION Continued...

our current benefit plan.

Within the regular and special sessions, we saw legislation focused on changes that could have reduced or eliminated our guaranteed benefit structure. In spite of these circumstances and huge

They used thinly guised research to support their initiatives by emphasizing portability and cost savings to the employer. The hidden agenda, however, is to switch to a Wall Street model that pays higher fees to the investors. Further, research shows that portability is

Your phone calls, e-mails, conversations with stakeholders, testimony and presence at the capitol provided me with the foundation to defend our benefit plan at each stage of the legislative process."

obstacles, our organization defended and upheld the Defined Benefit structure we counted on during our long years of teaching service.

Other states in our country have lost the Defined Benefit battle and have adopted either a Defined Contribution (401K) or a hybrid plan that paid into both types of benefit plans. The problem is that these plans don't work as is evidenced in West Virginia, Michigan, and Alaska. Further, national special interest organizations like the 'Reason Foundation' and the 'Arnold Group' have assisted legislators with devastating changes to retirement plans that increase debt and reduce the benefits for the retirees.

not why teachers enter and stay in the profession.

By training our membership on how to respond to these types of tactics, our staff heavily lobbied the legislature and defeated the majority of Representative Ivey's Bills focused on changing our benefit plan. Our membership filled every Senate and House Retirement Committee and filled out cards of opposition to these damaging pieces of legislation. Counter to that, we did the same for true reform legislation and the COLA Bills by filling out cards of support within a committee room filled with our members.

UPDATES

LRTA has a new and improved design team at Transformyx, to improve the layout, content, design and navigation of our site.

Our new web page will feature real time information, upto-date photos, events, news articles; as well as information to better assist our members. can't wait to hear your feedback! Check it out at www.lrta.net.

ALSO! We are accepting paypay for your membership, conthrough our website via PayPal. Paypal is a safe and secure online payment method. (We will still accept mailed in payments.)

some changes in our newsletter. I'm working tirelessly to redesign our newsletter to better fit the wants and needs of our association. My goal is for our newsletter to be reflective of our goals as an associationto be contemporary, forward of all-informative!

Our new design will feature quarterly, "themed" 12-paged editions. This format will allow me to include more of what YOU asked for--information, explanation, photos and interest pieces.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at Richardson@Irta.net

Delia Richardson Public Relations/ **Communications Coordinator** I have spent hours emailing, making phone calls, and meeting in hallways at the capitol to advocate our stances on each of the retirement bills. By the time I provided testimony on your behalf, these committees

were well aware of our position and the influence our membership invoked on each legislator. This joint endeavor between each of you and the LRTA staff was a calculated effort to maintain our current benefit plan.

Your phone calls, e-mails, conversations with stakeholders, testimony, and presence at the capitol provided me with the foundation to defend our benefit plan at each stage of the legislative process.

As we reflect on this session, it's important that we don't lose sight of the future. The future holds the same type of tactics and attitudes as our past. We need to expand our membership, train our Districts and Units with solid research that logically defends our retirement plan, and closely monitor each legislator as they begin to pre-file bills for next year's session.

I welcome invitations to each of your Fall meetings. I will provide you with the research, language, and tools to approach each member of our state legislature.

Finally, I can't emphasize how the leadership of our Executive Committee forged the successful path made by our organization. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. James Stewart, Dr. Lonnie Dunn, Mrs. Ber-

tha Breland, Mrs. Nancy Quigley, and Mrs. Lazette Watterson for their efforts and support during the last year. Their efforts made a huge difference as we engaged elected officials, statewide. Further, our new Executive Committee is already engaged as we look ahead at boosting membership and expanding legislative priorities. We are sad that Dr. Dunn will no longer be on the Executive Committee but count on his continued involvement in LRTA as we

look ahead. We welcome Mrs. Janice Hernandez to the Executive Committee and have relied heavily on her involvement in this year's legislative sessions.

In closing, the true heroes for this year's legislative triumphs are you, our members. Many of our members struggle with retirement issues from a minimal benefit to the rising cost of health care. Yet, you continue to pay your dues, participate in meetings, contact your legislators, and volunteer in your communities. You are the backbone of this great association! THANK YOU!

Rodney R. Watson **Executive Director**

"You are the

backbone

of this great

Association! ""

THANK YOU



(Pictured are Brenda Gautreaux, Representative Sam Jones and Beth Plaisance, LRTA District II President.)

LRTA and its membership would like to take this opportunity to extend a multitude of thanks to all key legislators that had an active role in helping retain our benefits, as well as receiving a COLA! A special thanks to Senator Barrow Peacock, Representative Kevin Pearson and Representative Sam Jones. Also, thank you, Governor John Bel Edwards, for signing all of the key bills into legislation!

LRTA FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Lafourche Parish RTA in memory of all deceased educators in Lafourche Parish

Acadia Parish RTA in memory of all deceased educators from Acadia Parish from 2015-2016

Bossier Parish RTA in memory of all deceased educators from Bossier Parish from 2015-2016

Terrebonne RTEA in memory of all deceased members of the Terrebonne Retired Educators Association

Dr. & Mrs. Sidney A. Seegers in honor of the new LRTA officers, President Bertha H. Breland, First Vice President Nancy Quigley, Second Vice President Janis M. Hernandez

LRTA District VI Officers in memory of Jarod Watson

RESPONDING TO NEGATIVE PRESS continued...

LRTA has legislative priorities and research that support our current system and provide for COLAs as established in law. Certainly, these types of articles will continue in the future and it's important for our membership to provide both meaningful and logical responses to these types of criticisms.

Let's take a few quotes from articles published during the regular session and look at the types of responses you can give to the legislators and the general public in the future.

In an opinion published in The Advocate on May 12, 2016 the writer stated "When John Bel Edwards became governor this year, he promised to advance reform of state spending. Edwards should remain true to his word and veto a bill raising pensions for state retirees."

In fact, the "bill raising pensions for state retirees" was SB 2 providing a COLA that would be provided from the excess earnings of the retirees' investment accounts. This money is designated for that specific purpose and does not come from the state general fund.

The article further states "But now, bowing to political expedience, many of the same lawmakers who approved the 2014 change have passed another bill that essentially overturns the earlier reform, granting a raise to pensioners, even though the rate of inflation is low."

True, the current law provides for a COLA using only one year of data. However, when averaging the data over a two

controlling the employer costs and accounting for administrative overhead while paying down the unfunded accrued liability (debt) to the system.

In an another article published in The Advocate titled, "Sweeping Retirement Changes Deferred in Louisiana Legislature," Representative Barry Ivey, a Republican, argued "that the hybrid plan 401(k) plan. This would put our employees on the same footing as those in the private sector."

Louisiana opted out of Social Security in the 1980s to provide its current benefit structure. Therefore, shifting to a plan with a 401 (k) component in absence of Social Security would not provide the same benefit as the private sector.

Additionally, research shows that teachers make 17 to 20 percent less in earnings than the private sector. By providing our current retirement benefit. Louisiana is able to attract and retain a highly qualified teaching workforce.

In conclusion, it's important that our membership continues to defend our Defined Benefit structure and the need for COLAs as the cost of living increases.

Our defense of these negative opinions is based on current research and is the basis of LRTA's legislative priorities. Our goal, in that regard, is to provide you with the best available information and talking points as we continue to protect the rights of Louisiana's retired teachers.

OUR DEFENSE OF THESE NEGATIVE OPINIONS IS BASED ON CURRENT RESEARCH AND IS THE BASIS OF LRTA'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

year period, it provides for a more accurate rate of inflation. It also helps offset the rising cost of health care for most retirees, statewide. Further, the money has been available and sitting in the retirees' 'Experience' Account for the express purpose of granting a COLA.

The article concluded by stating "The 2014 law should not have been so casually set aside. Edwards should do the right thing, and veto the COLA bill."

The law was not 'casually set aside', rather the COLA legislation, SB 2, was tied to the favorable passage of SB 4 and SB 18. Both of these bills continue with retirement reform aimed at would cost the taxpayers less and chip away at the near \$20 billion difference between the promises made to retirees by the state and the amount of money available to pay those debts (UAL).

A cost analysis shows that a shift from a Defined Benefit to a Hybrid plan would, in fact, cost the state more money. Further, states like West Virginia, Michigan, and Alaska, that made a shift to a Hybrid plan, actually increased their debt and were unable to provide a guaranteed benefit large enough for new employees to retire.

Ivey went on to say that "Most workers in the private sector depend on Social Security plus a

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LRTA PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity to express to you my sincere gratitude for allowing me to serve as your president for the next two years. I am truly excited to be a part of such an organization as the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association, and to be a part of striving to make RETIREMENT YEARS **GREAT!**

I taught school for 33 years in Bogalusa, La. My tenure began in elementary grades, teaching in fifth and sixth grade self-contained classrooms for the first 16 years. I completed my tenure as principal for the last 17 years. After retiring in May of 2000, I became a member of LRTA, District III. and Bogalusa Retired Teachers Association. and have been active at all levels since then. There are no better people in the world to be with than retired people who have walked the road with you!

The last two years have seen big changes in LRTA. We lost Graig Luscombe as our executive director when he retired in 2015. How can you replace someone like Graig? Not an easy task! However, the Executive Committee

worked many hours, with some turmoil, to present to the Executive Board Rodney Watson as our recommendation for executive director of LRTA. I am so happy to report that Rodney was approved by the board with a 100 percent vote of confidence. Rodney hit the ground running and has not stopped since.

We have also added a new staff member. Delia-Marie Richardson now serves as public relations and commucoordinator. nications She replaced Erica Rodriguez on the staff.

Ms. Richardson is working on updating and improving the newsletter, as well as redesigning our new and improved LRTA website. Exciting things are to come!

A big thank you to James Stewart for your tireless work as president the last two years! I know that your heart and soul were completely invested in all that you did. Thanks to your effort, the e-mail club membership has increased from approximately 2,000 members. to more than 7,000.

Also, in the last two years, two COLAs were

approved by the legislature. However, we only received one due to a veto by the previous governor. Good work, Mr. Stewart!

The Executive Committee will be working on setting our goals for the next years in the near future. I will be presenting these goals in the next newsletter. I can assure you that membership will be at the top of the list! My goal is to work together with the executive committee as a team to establish our goals and strive to reach them.

I am so fortunate to be working with such a strong committee. Mr. Stewart will serve as immediate past president, Nancy Quigley as first vice president, Janis Hernandez as second vice president, and Lazette Watterson district president as representative. Mrs. Quigley is in charge of membership and has a plan in place for recruiting new members. You will be hearing about it in the near future. Mrs. Hernandez and I have discussed plans for future programs. If you have ideas for programs that have worked for your group, please let us know so that we



can pass the ideas to others.

I have mentioned the two newest members of the staff. Now something about the two other members, the two that have been there the longest—I look forward to working with Ann Reed and Renee Siccone. You could not ask for a better staff to work with anywhere! Thanks for all you have done already.

I am excited to serve as president. I promise to do my best. I ask for your support and your prayers! If we strive toward the same goals. we will succeed!

Bertha Breland LRTA President

RECAP: 2016 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Provided below is a list of bills that were pre-filed and/or introduced for consideration by the Legislature during the 2016 Regular Session which could have had a potential impact on you as a retired educator and/or your retirement system. The descriptions of the bills have been taken from the legislative text and digests. Italicized statements are additional comments made by the Executive Director for LRTA. The words in red are the positions of the LRTA Legislative Committee taken on Wednesday, March 9, 2016.

The legislative session began at noon on Monday, March 14, and ended at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2016.

PBI/COLA

SENATE BILL NO. 2 BY SENA-TOR BARROW PEACOCK (ACT NO. 93)

This bill provides for the payment of a permanent benefit increase (PBI) out of the balance on deposit in the Experience Account to eligible members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to begin on July 1, 2016. The benefit increase will be provided to those eligible individuals receiving a benefit from TRSL who have been retired for at least 12 months, and who are at least age 60, on June 30, 2016. The benefit increase will be applied to the first \$60,000 of the annual benefit currently received from TRSL. The benefit increase will also be paid to disability retirees and to the beneficiaries of retirees and disability retirees who would have met the above stated eligibility requirements. This bill

provides for a COLA only if Con- order to support this bill. sumer Price Index (CPI) is a negative value. Added an amendment to average CPI over a two year period that would grant a COLA this vear if passed into law. This Bill is attached to the favorable passage of SB 5 and SB 18 which passed SR on 4/4/16. This bill is a similar version to HB No. 32 by Representative Sam Jones.

LRTA Supported. Signed into law 5/19/16. Became Act No. 93. Effective 7/1/16.

HOUSE BILL NO. 32 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE SAM JONES

This bill provides for the payment of a permanent benefit increase out of the balance on deposit in the Experience Account to eligible members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to begin on July 1, 2016. The benefit increase will be provided to those eligible individuals receiving a benefit from TRSL who have been retired for at least 12 months, and who are at least age 60, on June 30, 2016. The benefit increase will be applied to the first \$60,000 of the annual benefit currently received from TRSL. The benefit increase will also be paid to disability retirees and to the beneficiaries of retirees and disability retirees who would have met the above stated eligibility requirements.

Similar PBIs are authorized for members of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System and the Louisiana State Police Retirement System. We will communicate with Representative Jones on potential amendments to this legislation in

LRTA Supported. Signed into law 6/16/16. Became Act No. 512. Effective 6/30/16.

HOUSE BILL NO. 33 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE SAM JONES

This bill repeals the requirement that benefit increases of retirees and beneficiaries of state retirement systems be approved by the legislature and authorizes the board of trustees of such systems to pay the increases when requirements in present law are otherwise met. Further it requires the board to submit a report to the House and Senate committees on retirement within 10 days after action to grant a COLA. We will communicate with Representative Jones on potential amendments to this legislation in order to support this bill.

No Position, Never ran

BOARD SPONSORED

SENATE BILL NO. 4 BY SENA-TOR BARROW PEACOCK (ACT NO. 159)

Proposed law reduces the number of times the TRSL board of trustees shall meet from once a month to 10 times each calendar year. This reduction would account for changes in school calendars and potential hazardous weather affecting trustee attendance at board meetings. Effective June 30, 2016.

LRTA Supported. Signed into law on 5/19/16. Became Act 159. Effective 6/30/16.

SENATE BILL NO. 5 BY SENA-TOR BARROW PEACOCK (ACT NO. 94)

The law provides for required employer contributions for each state retirement system to be a dollar amount for yearly benefits and unfunded accrued liability (UAL) payments. This law adds as an additional component of the sum of the cost of projected non investment related administrative expenses for that year. Builds in retirement administrative costs into the Employers Contribution Rate. This bill is attached to SB 2 and SB 18.

LRTA Supported. Signed into law on 5/19/16. Became Act No. 94. Effective 6/10/16.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

HOUSE BILL NO. 15 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE PEARSON

Requires administrative expenses of state retirement systems to be calculated on a prospective basis and added into the employer contributions of each system instead of assessed as a net loss each vear and amortized as a debt over 30 years.

LRTA Supported. Did not pass

HOUSE BILL NO. 47 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE BARRY IVEY

Requires administrative expenses of state retirement systems to be calculated on a prospective basis and added into the employer contributions of each system instead of assessed as a net loss each year and amortized as a debt over 30 years. Representative Ivy may not run this bill.

No Position. Did not pass

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

HOUSE BILL NO. 14 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE KEVIN PEARSON

Replaces the chairmen of the House and Senate committees on retirement with the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate on each state and statewide retirement system, plan, and fund.

No Position. Signed into law on 6/16/16. Became Act No. 621. Effective 6/17/16.

HOUSE BILL NO. 48 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE BARRY IVEY

Adds citizens unaffiliated with the retirement system to the boards of trustees of each of the four state retirement systems. Proposed law adds five citizen trustees to the TRSL board. Each such trustee shall have filed his state income tax returns for the last five consecutive years and shall not have an immediate family member who is an active or retired member of the system or a beneficiary of the system. TRSL members are already citizens and have experience and a vested interest in the retirement system. Furthermore, the TRSL board is already one of the largest retirement boards, additional membership could be counterproductive.

LRTA Opposed. Did not pass

BOARD ACTUARY APPOINTMENT

HOUSE BILL NO. 51 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE BARRY IVEY

Proposed law requires the actuary hired by the system to be selected from a list maintained by the legislative auditor. Requires the list to contain the names of at least three actuarial firms. Requires each

firm on the list to employ at least one qualified actuary who shall be responsible for providing technical assistance and actuarial services to the retirement system. This Bill removes authority from trustees.

LRTA Opposed. Did not pass

UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITY (UAL)

HOUSE BILL NO. 509 & 617 BY REPRESENTATIVE **GREGORY** A. MILLER

Proposes to make changes to the Budget Stabilization Fund and provides for allocations of mineral revenues. Provides that mineral revenues that cannot be deposited into the Budget Stabilization Fund because of the cap shall be used for payments against the UAL. HB 509 effective if enacted through statewide election to be held on Nov. 8, 2016. HB 617 effective if passed and HB 509 is enacted.

No Position. Did not pass

SENATE BILL NO. 315 BY SENA-TOR JACK DONAHUE

Proposes that appropriations by the legislature from mineral revenues generated from the price of oil in excess of \$40 per barrel shall be limited to the purposes for which nonrecurring revenue can be appropriated. Payment against the UAL is one of the six purposes for which an appropriation could be made.

LRTA Supported. Did not pass

SENATE BILL NO. 20 BY SENA-TOR BARROW PEACOCK

Proposed law, for purposes of determining the maximum PBI within

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RECAP: 2016 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION continued...

the schedule in present law, specifies that the funding level shall be determined before any allocation to the Experience Account. Further provides that effective for the June 30th system valuation following the fiscal year in which the system first attains a funded level of 80% pursuant to proposed law, the amortization period for most actuarial changes, gains, and losses shall be reduced from 30 years to 20 years and the reduction of certain debt payments through re-amortization after application of gains allocated to funding that debt shall begin.

No Position. Did not pass

SENATE BILL NO. 18 BY SENA-TOR BARROW PEACOCK (ACT NO. 95)

Proposed law, for purposes of determining the maximum PBI within the schedule in present law, specifies that the funding level shall be determined before any allocation to the Experience Account. Additionally, proposed law provides that effective for the June 30, 2016 system valuation the amortization period for most actuarial changes, gains, and losses shall be reduced from 30 years to 20 years in two-year increments over the next five years. Further provides that in the first system valuation following June 30, 2015, in which an allocation is made to the system's Experience Account and for each valuation thereafter, actuarial gains allocated to the Experience Account shall be amortized as a loss with level payments over a 10year period. Amended to remove language that would empty the Experience Account in years COLAs aren't granted. SB 2 is attached to this Bill and HB 5.

LRTA Supported. Signed into law on 5/19/16. Became Act No. 95. Effective 6/30/16

HOUSE BILL NO. 21 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE SAM JONES

Current law provides for the accounting of and funding for the liabilities for the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL). Relative to liabilities of state retirement systems (TRSL), this law moves up the implementation of the 20-year amortization periods for such liabilities and authorizes re-amortization of such liabilities once every five years. Waiting for clarification language from Representative Jones.

No Position. Did not pass

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

HOUSE BILL NO. 62 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE BARRY IVEY

For state retirement systems meeting certain funded ratio criteria, sets a minimum employer contribution rate of 20% and provides for use of funds from such additional contributions. Although this legislation could assist with paying down the UAL in a shorter period of time, employers should have input on this bill.

No Position. Did not pass

BENEFIT STRUCTURE

HOUSE BILL NO. 45 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE BARRY IVEY

Eliminates certain protections for benefits of state retirement system members if such benefits are

paid by a third-party provider and not by a state retirement system. Proposed law only protects guaranteed benefits if two conditions are met. (1) The benefits are annuitized by a state retirement system. (2) The benefits are based on service in a plan or tier of a state retirement system that calculates normal retirement benefits using an accrual rate and an average of the member's compensation or salary. Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held November 8, 2016. This bill waters down a guaranteed benefit and reguires the employee to bear partial burden of the UAL. Because the current Constitution prohibits both of these requirements, this would necessitate an amendment to the Constitution.

LRTA Opposed. Did not pass

HOUSE BILL NO. 46 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE BARRY IVEY

Requires members of state retirement systems whose first date of employment making them eligible for membership in a state retirement system occurred on or after July 1, 2017, to equally share the cost of certain elements of their retirement benefit with their employer. This bill may have unintentional consequences where the employee may either share debt or receive a benefit. Because the current Constitution prohibits this requirement, an amendment to the Constitution would be necessary.

LRTA Opposed. Did not pass

HOUSE BILL NO. 49 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE BARRY IVEY

Requires members of state retire-

ment systems first hired on or after July 1, 2017, to share certain retirement costs equally with employers. One aspect of this proposed law would increase the employee share from 8% to 9.5%. High employee costs would make teacher recruitment difficult.

LRTA Opposed. Did not pass

HOUSE BILL NO. 50 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE BARRY IVEY

Establishes a tiered accrual rate based on years of creditable service for all new members of state retirement systems whose first employment making them eligible for membership in a state system occurs on or after July 1, 2018. This bill will produce a reduced benefit from our current structure. No actuarial data has been provided to indicate the proposed plan would be at least equal to a social security benefit.

LRTA Opposed. Did not pass

HOUSE BILL NO. 65 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE BARRY IVEY

Establishes a hybrid retirement plan for members of state retirement systems whose first employment making them eligible for membership in a state system occurred on or after July 1, 2018.

LRTA Opposed. Did not pass

HOUSE BILL NO. 66 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE BARRY IVEY

Proposed law establishes a hybrid retirement plan (Hybrid Plan)consisting of a combination of a small defined benefit pension and a defined contribution (DC) account-for members of each system whose first employment making them eligible for membership in a state system occurred on or after July 1, 2017 (hereafter referred to as "new members"). Representative Ivey has indicated that this is a placeholder bill.

No Position. Did not pass

OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PLAN (ORP)

SENATE BILL NO. 17 BY SENA-TOR BARROW PEACOCK

Proposed law provides that an active, contributing participant in the ORP on June 30, 2016, may elect, through written notice to TRSL, to cease contributions to the ORP and begin membership in the regular retirement plan at TRSL as a new member on or before December 30, 2016.

Members would not transfer or close their ORP account; however, they would freeze their contributions. Under this bill participants would then enter the TRSL system as a new employee.

No Position. Did not pass

RETURN TO WORK

HOUSE BILL NO. 60 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE BLAKE MIGUEZ

Authorizes a retiree of the Teachers' Retirement System of La. (TRSL) to return to work as a school nurse and continue to collect his benefit check, subject to an earnings limitation of 25% of his benefit amount.

LRTA Supported. Did not pass

HOUSE BILL NO. 61 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE FRANK HOFFMANN

Authorizes retirees of the Teachers' Retirement System of La. (TRSL) to return to work as a school psychologist in a critical shortage area without reduction of retirement benefits.

LRTA Supported. Did not pass

HOUSE BILL NO. 907 BY REP-RESENTATIVE HARVEY LEBAS

Increases allowable earnings for retirees who return to work as substitute teachers.

LRTA Supported. Did not pass

PURCHASING SERVICE CREDIT

HOUSE BILL NO. 13 BY REPRE-SENTATIVE J. KEVIN PEARSON

This bill allows a current TRSL member to purchase service credit for time spent teaching in an elementary or secondary non public school that was located in another state, and was approved by that state's educational agency during the time the teaching service was rendered.

LRTA Supported. Did not pass

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N MEMORIAM "...THESE IMMORTAL DEAD WHO LIVE AGAIN IN MINDS N

Deceased Retired Teachers February 9, 2016 to June 13, 2016

Doris A. Aubry - New Orleans Helen Castenell - New Orleans Milton J. Coulon - New Orleans Eugenia Davis - New Orleans Therese L. Faget - New Orleans Ada Louise Green - New Orleans Doretha S. Harrell - New Orleans Marilyn M. Johnson - New Orleans Karen W. Jones - New Orleans Erlma M. Lemle - New Orleans Anna Belie A. Lincoln - New Orleans Helen Matthews - New Orleans Jo Ann H. Najolia - Arabi Nhan D. Nguyen - New Orleans John T. O'Connor - New Orleans Melanie A. Plesh - New Orleans Joyce Powell - New Orleans Lyndall W. Rossbach - New Orleans Bertha H. Shiloh - New Orleans Elaine M. Smith - New Orleans Myrtis E. J. Snowden - New Orleans Irvin Stewart - New Orleans Joyce M. Taylor - New Orleans Patti L. Tullis - New Orleans Elaine T. Voelker - New Orleans Mildred Wattree - New Orleans Lorraine P. Wilson - New Orleans Lester R. Wright - New Orleans Bennie J. Zahn - New Orleans

District II

Audrey Acosta - Cut Off Brenda J. Albert - LaPlace Milton P. Arabie - Raceland Ruby Barlow - Luling Ruth N. Booth - Luling Julianna L. Boudreaux - Metairie Jonna K. Brady - Hahnville Agnes G. Burlett - Metairie Albert Caillouet, Jr. - New Sarpy Dolores Cardon - Harvey Susie V. Charles - Hahnville Alice W. Chauvin - Houma Mark Anthony Cheramie - Galliano Emma R. Cronin - Terrytown Theresa R. Cusachs - Metairie Irene C. D'Antonio - St. Rose Belle B. Davis - Houma Randall A. Detro - Thibodaux Becky Jo A. Dufrene - Paradis Joseph D. Elfert - Labadieville Connie Ellender – Houma Elaine A. Ezell - Galliano Marylane A. Falgout - Raceland Lloyd L. Foote - Kenner Louise C. Francois - Marrero Janet B. Fricke - River Ridge Rebecca A. Frickey -- Paradis Angela A. Germany - LaPlace Julie P. Harmeyer - Kenner Erin L. Harty - Destrehan

Alvin J. Hebert - Houma Sandra B. Heirsch - Metairie Emile D. Hotard, Jr. - Reserve James J. Hutchinson - Houma Betty J. Jackson - Marrero Bessie B. Jeffery - LaPlace Myrtle Johnson - Gretna Guindella A. Joseph - Thibodaux Lena Mae Joseph - Lutcher Marshall C. Kinchen - Thibodaux Elizabeth G. Landry - Thibodaux Ronald T. LeBlanc - Houma Gerald D. Long - Thibodaux Lena Mae Manale - Harahan Margaret B. McCallum - Harvey Carolyn A. Mouton - Metairie Florence Payne - Lutcher Shirley T. Pertuit - Luling Donald J. Portier - Bourg Henri J. Roca, Jr. - Destrehan Deborah T. Roux - Gretna Genevieve M. Saunders - Harahan Hilda D. Sills - Marrero Nola D. Spiess - Luling Aline S. Squires - Metairie Bobby H. Starr - Metairie Eloíse B. Tassin - Westwego Donna D. Thomas - Metairie Emily B. Tierney - Metairie Regan M. Tyler - Reserve Gloria G. Verret - Houma Florence A. Warwick - Metairie Lawrence N. Washington - Harvey Joyce Haney Whetstone - Metairie Marie Cecile Zeringue - St. James

District III

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Antonio S. Achacoso - Baton Rouge

Jeannette Ackel - Baton Rouge

District IV Hattie R. Abram - Baton Rouge

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Leroy L. Lang - Baton Rouge Charles J. LeBlanc - Baton Rouge Jo A Leggett - Baton Rouge Margaret H. May - Baton Rouge John D. McConnell - Baton Rouge Johnnie McDonald - Baton Rouge Lechia H. Minor - St. Francisville Mary Mule - Baton Rouge Ernestine W. Newman - Baton Rouge Rosamond Nicolosi - Plaquemine Anna B. O'Flynn - Baton Rouge Hazel O'Gwin - Baton Rouge Mary P. Oubre - Baton Rouge Sherry L. Ourso - Donaldsonville Elaine M. Raby - Ethel Winifred C. Rives - Baton Rouge Reclay Sands - Baton Rouge Valliere A. Saurage, Jr. - Baton Rouge Helen Quiret Shaw - Baton Rouge Charles Singleton - Baton Rouge Betty S. Smith - Donaldsonville Deloris O. Smith - Baton Rouge Elizabeth K. Smith - Baton Rouge Melvin L. Steele - Maringouin Elaine V. Sullivan - St. Francisville Dorothy W. Taplin - Baton Rouge Barbara C. Tindall - Gonzales Robert E. Truax - Baton Rouge Josie R. Vicknair - Baton Rouge Elouise T. Wallace - Baton Rouge Augustine C. Warner - Baton Rouge Marjorie S. Watkins - Baton Rouge Modesta J. Webb - Baton Rouge Doris B. White - Baton Rouge Thomas J. Wilcox, Jr. - Baton Rouge Joann P. Williams - Baton Rouge Ellen S. Wilson - Baton Rouge

District V

Sandra F. Ardoin - Eunice Lloyd D. Boseman - New Iberia Levy P. Boudreaux -- Lawtell Estelle A. Broussard - Opelousas Genevia D. Broussard - Kaplan Shirley G. Brown - New Iberia Helen Burch - Arnaudville Mary W. Canonge - Lafayette Marie Couvillion - Lafayette Marjorie W. Dixon - Lafayette Emiree O. Dominique - New Iberia Thelma Elizabeth Dunn - Ville Platte Marlene D. Fontenot - Eunice Fay Ann M. Foreman - Broussard Barbara Ann Fraley - Morgan City Albert F. Frederick, Jr. - Abbeville Hannah S. Grado - Lafayette Melba Guidry - Kaplan Mathilda B. Guyon - Youngsville Mae L. Hanchey - Youngsville Huey P. Hinckley - Abbeville Gloria Huckabay - New Iberia Pearl M. Hutchinson - Lafayette Daniel W. Huval - Abbeville Octavia Ina - Franklin Vax Jefferson - Opelousas

DE BETTER BY THEIR PRESENCE"

Anna D. Judice - Lafayette L. Lavelle Langston - Franklin Edith E. Lanphier - Lafayette

Audrey A. Lewis - Berwick Clifford J. Lintzen - Port Barre Charles Maddocks, III - Lafayette Lilly Ann H. McKinney - Opelousas Joyce H. Michel - Duson Lou Ella J. Milburn - Opelousas Lulda A. Monceaux - Kaplan Birdell A. Mouton - Lafayette Jack D. Mouton - Lafayette Anthony Mumphrey - Eunice Paul Oppenheimer - Lafayette Joe Ann D. Paul - Patterson Irma L. Quirk - Carencro Noel D. Rachou - Lafavette Geraldine W. Rener - Jeanerette Mary D. Richard - Lafayette Josephine C. Ritter - Lafavette Janet Robinson - Opelousas Evenette B. Romero - New Iberia Laverne M. Ross - Opelousas Margaret W. Sauer - Lafayette Joan P. Schexnayder - Patterson Martharine C. Segura - Franklin Jane Ethel Smith - Ville Platte Deanna B. Sonnier - Scott Claudette F. Speights - Berwick Errol James Trahan - Lafavette Theresa B. Westley - Lafayette Budd A. White - Carencro Dorothy B. Youman - Baldwin

District VI

Irvin K. Abraham - Lake Charles Charles E. Alderson - Sulphur Shirley C. Alfred - Fenton Rose L. M. Allgood - Jennings Gabriel J. Barkate - Lake Charles Carol Rae Barrios - Lake Charles Marilyn A. Bratton - Sulphur Charles S. Buck - Kinder Frank Caldarera - Westlake Leola C. Carhee - DeRidder Helen D. Cart - Crowley Jerry Chaumont - Oberlin Charles E. Dees - Sulphur Rhonda L. Fontenot - Midland Leroy E. Garst - DeRidder Roger E. Gonsoulin, Jr. - Crowley Robert D. Hebert - Lake Charles Patricia T. Heimbach - Lake Charles Alisa L. Isbell - DeRidder Jimmy B. Labuff - Kinder Jeni-Su L. Lacoste - Lake Charles Gerald F. Leger - Crowley Frankie J. McWherter - Lake Charles Ida Meche - Lake Charles Elsie C. Mitchell - Lake Charles Charles T. Montgomery - DeRidder Kathryn E. Porter - Lake Charles Deius C. Reed, Jr. - Oberlin Whitman Rimes - Lake Charles

Mabel G. Robertson - Lake Charles William H. Scarborough - DeRidder Sheron J. Singletary - Iowa Judith D. Smith - Sulphur Richard B. Sockrider - Roanoke James E. Stutts - Lake Charles Susan A. Taylor - Sulphur Evon Trahan - DeQuincy Eileen A. Wall - Iowa Roosevelt Washington - Lake Charles Mary Lynn C. Wiley - Sulphur

District VII

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District IX

Joan B. Hamilton - Lake Providence Marie L. Hill - Rayville James H. Hogue - Rayville Clara R. Keys - Rayville Loretha C. Kindrick - Tallulah Robert M. Landis - Winnsboro Ola M. Moore - Winnsboro Virginia E. Potter - Rayville Jimmy R. Stothart - Coushatta

Alvie L. Thornhill, Jr. - Winnsboro Edna W. Williams - Baskin

Arthur R. Adams - Monroe

Shirley K. Alford - Monroe

Larry D. Avery - Jonesboro

Iris Mack Barnes - Ruston

Lillian S. Aplin - West Monroe

District X

Ed Bilberry, Jr. - Farmerville Helen P. Bissic - Grambling Mildred J. Blankenship - Grambling Blanche A. Brown - Monroe Earlene Bryant - Monroe Elmer Lee Bryant - Monroe Lena Carter - Grambling Sue Corbin Davis - West Monroe Ruth Doggett - Grambling Rutha B. Fields - Farmerville John Iley Fogleman - Monroe Betty Jean Frye - Homer Babs Lee Hagar - West Monroe Milo L. Haynes - Monroe Ida Mae Haywood - Monroe William L. Hoover - Monroe Bertha P. Humphrey - Ruston Ora Nelle G. Loyless - Bastrop Sadie A. Ludley - Grambling Kenneth W. Maki - Monroe Phoebe A. Mathys - Monroe Barbara W. McGrew - West Monroe Albert G. McKee - Ruston William F. McKnight - Farmerville Juanita W. Mitchell - Bastrop Mary T. Moseley - Monroe Mildred G. Moss - Grambling Belinda Faye Neal - Jonesboro Willie Z. Patterson - Monroe Hattie Perkins - Grambling Martha A. Reid-Smith - Downsville Gloria S. Rentz - Ruston Bernice Rollins - Grambling Elizabeth G. Sehon - Calhoun Carrie Mae Short - Monroe Alice Perry Smith - Monroe Glyndle R. Smith - Bastrop Robert Lee Smith - Bastrop Deloris V. Stevenson - Monroe Verla Mae Stringer - West Monroe Martha E. Sumner - Bastrop Sheiba H. Walsworth - Quitman Catherine A. Walters - Monroe Melvaree R. Washington - Grambling Katie D. Watkins - Bastrop Barbara A. West - Monroe Leo Wheeler - Bastrop Beverly Wilson - Monroe Peggy Wise - West Monroe

District XI

Ann Lee Alford - Benton Billie P. Barclay - Keithville Johnny Barnes - Benton Carrie G. Belle - Shreveport Gloria Bennett - Bossier City

lleen Garner Brill - Shreveport Clay Brock - Benton Norman H. Corkran - Plain Dealing Cheryl Craft - Benton Evelyn A. Davis - Shreveport Gene E. Derveloy - Shreveport John C. Dickey - Oil City Barbara J. Fuller - Shreveport Marguerite P. Gilleon - Shreveport Penny H. Greene - Shreveport Clyreice M. Holmes - Shreveport James E. Huggins - Haughton Mildred C. Jamison - Shreveport Bobbye Jan Johnson - Minden Judy Ball Johnson - Greenwood Montie Louise Johnson - Shreveport Jearlyn R. Lindsay - Shreveport Katherine A. Loe - Shreveport John R. McConathy - Bossier City Norma K. McGlasson - Shreveport Prentis H. Newsom - Sarepta Glenn Payne - Greenwood Emmitt A. Player - Plain Dealing Zoe Ramsey - Shreveport Irene B. Rubben - Shreveport Orlinda Q. Sanchez - Shreveport Virginia H. Sigrest - Shreveport Mary Tillman Smith - Shreveport Mary M. Thomas - Gibsland Charles Ed Thrash - Shreveport Jane H. Tidwell - Springhill Janet Wamnes - Shreveport Percy Maxwell Watters - Haynesville Frances K. Wiegel - Shreveport Emma J. Williams - Shreveport Essie L. Youngblood - Homer

Out of State

Harry Albert - Richmond, TX Elease Arbogast - Rivesville, WV Carolyn N. Baumann - Concord, NC Adrena A. Benjamin - Rajnbow City, AL Joyce H. Blanchard - Saraland, AL Janet L. Blum - Port Washington, WI Joseph W. Cadenhead - Kerrville, TX Doris E. Carter - Houston, TX Mark E. Christie - Astoria, OR Jack M. Claunch - Ft. Myers, FL Ollie R. Collins - Nevada, TX Randy Crump - Stockton, CA Charles Crutcher - Athens, AL. Elizabeth F. Devillier - Cypress, TX Wanda C. Edwards - Katy, TX Claire A. Evans - Marshall, TX Litha W. Ewing - Grand Prairie, TX Charles Faust - Johnson City, TN Margaret G. Foman - Spring, TX Catherine Fulton - Colfax, CA Joan B. Garvey - Oak Park, IL Dorothy Gilmer - Pascagoula, MS Margaret Gregory - Jackson, MS Thelma W. Hammond - Natchez, MS Joel Hawkins - Killeen, TX Fannie Sue R. Heard - Sylvania, OH Continued on pg. 12

LRTA NEWSLETTER

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Office of Group Benefits	
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area)	
Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)	800.258.7041
LRTA Office	225.927.8837
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area)	888.531.1992
Fax	225.927.8838

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2016 Fall Meeting

Date: October 24, 25 and 26
Location: Ramada Lafayette Conference Center
2032 NE Evangeline Thruway
Lafayette, LA 70501

N MEMORIAM Continued...

Jean Louise Heffron – Noblesville, IN
Robert Heilgren – Plano, IL
Luanne Hervey – Pinellas Park, FL
Mary L. Higginbotham – Roxie, MS
Marlene Hillebrandt – Flower Mound, TX
Mary A. Hunt – Katy, TX
Lucille M. Hunter – San Diego, CA
Elaine Jarmon – Brandon, MS
Nancy D. Johnson – Natchez, MS
Wilma D. Jolley – Little Rock, AR
Florence C. Jordan – Vass, NC
Stephany A. Joseph – Humble, TX
Frances C. Kennedy – Humble, TX
Marion Alice G. Kiel – Austin, TX
Sally T. Kuzenski – Santa Rosa Beach, FL

FL Anna F. Lagattuta – Texas City, TX Carlos E. Land, Jr. – Batesville, AR Larry Larason – Tucson, AZ Patricia U. Lavigne – Evans, GA Raymond V. Lesikar – Lakeway, TX Lula L. Lewis - Pensacola, FL Stella C. Lucas - Carriere, MS Melba B, Martin - Vancleave, MS Alta B. Maynard - Spring, TX Frances T. McCahill - Frisco, TX Donald S. McCartney - Hattiesburg, MS Rosa M. McGee - Grand Prairie, TX Jeremy J. Millett - Baltimore, MD Solis J. Monconduit - Las Vegas, NV Elizabeth C. Moore - Caddo Mills, TX Esther Moore - Las Vegas, NV Joyce T. Mouton - Round Rock, TX Norman C, Nelson - Brandon, MS Elwyn J. Pate - Allen, TX Margaret H. Peaslee - Camp Hill, PA Mildred S. Peters - Sterling Heights, MI Yvonne T. Pickett - Hollywood, FL. Robert C. Poe - Meridian, MS Carolyn L. Primeaux - Hillsborough, NC Lorraine Pyne - Valparaiso, IN Peggy S. P. Redmond - Benton, AR

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Ola Marie Thomas - Conroe, TX Aline Thompson - Santa Rosa Beach, FL Evelvn A. Tomlinson - Tucson, AZ David Townsend - Huntsville, TX Jeanet Trammell - Auburn, AL Mildred B. Troullier - Birmingham, AL Victor J. Vavasseur - Olympia Fields, IL Debra A. Ward - Waynesville, MO Michael H. Ward - Laneville, TX Mildred R. Ward - Lewisville, TX Sammie B. Ward - Hubbard, TX Edward R. Washington - Henderson, NV Marjorie F. Welsh - Brandon, MS Samuel D. Weston - Hurley, MS Martha P. Whiddon - Picayune, MS Leonard Wilmer - Pearland, TX Verna Wimberly - Parker, CO William A. Windham - Vicksburg, MS Shirley Young - Rosharon, TX Tudelle D. Young - Goshen, KY