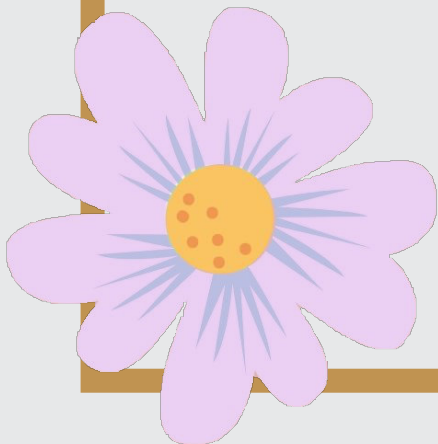


2022 Spring District Meeting Packets



LOUISIANA RETIRED
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Some of the resources in this packet are time-sensitive. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the LRTA website at www.lrta.net. Resources, like survey results and impending legislation, are updated regularly on the LRTA website.

The resources in this packet will be vital throughout the 2022 Regular Legislative Session. Please keep this packet and encourage fellow retirees to learn more about LRTA at www.lrta.net.

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Join us for the LRTA State Spring Meeting

PRESENTATION OF VALUATION RESULTS

SUMMARY OF VALUATION RESULTS

		----- Prior Years -----		
		June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019
I.	Membership Census			
	Retirees	81,620	80,536	79,647
	Actives	85,980	86,860	85,998
	DROP	2,227	2,359	2,462
	Terminated Vested	8,409	7,992	7,574
II.	Annual Benefits	\$2,120,995,108	\$2,072,641,570	\$2,033,557,103
III.	Current Payroll			
	Regular Teachers, Lunch Plans	3,586,756,266	3,498,582,193	3,386,982,919
	Higher Education	748,334,382	731,038,788	684,771,436
	Total	4,335,090,648	4,229,620,981	4,071,754,355
IV.	Market Value of Assets	27,724,128,255	21,220,586,002	21,652,482,372
	Valuation Assets	23,741,582,928	21,971,040,392	21,183,177,985
V.	Investment Yield			
	Market Value (Total Assets)	34.32%	0.82%	5.86%
	Market Value (Excl LaDROP Assets)	34.92%	0.83%	5.95%
	Actuarial Value	12.65%	6.80%	7.48%
	DROP	12.15%	6.30%	6.98%
VI.	Experience Account	369,000,000	97,714,607	91,497,197
VII.	Total Normal Cost	482,490,694	468,547,375	454,344,240
	Total Normal Cost % of Payroll	11.13%	11.08%	11.16%
	Employer Normal Cost % of Payroll	3.15%	3.10%	3.18%
VIII.	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	9,317,243,930	10,369,997,921	10,390,968,872
IX.	Funded Percentage ¹	71.8%	67.9%	67.1%
X.	Funding Requirements (Mid-year Pmt)			
	1) Discount Rate (Current Year) ²	7.40%	7.45%	7.55%
	Discount Rate (Next Year) ²	7.25%	7.40%	7.45%
	2) Employee Contribution	348,655,596	340,628,608	328,587,112
	3) Restated Required Employer Contribution	1,161,260,021	1,193,919,270	1,170,078,214
	Aggregate Rate (Current Year) ³	23.9%	25.0%	25.4%
	Restated Expected Employer Contribution ⁴	1,220,748,179	1,223,558,559	1,194,115,857
	4) Projected Required Employer Contribution	1,215,753,986	1,214,905,342	1,204,979,667
	Aggregate Rate (Next Year) ⁵	24.7%	25.1%	25.6%

The above funding requirements measure the cost of benefits that were in effect on June 30, 2021.

¹ See page 7 for additional information regarding the funding percentage and UAL impact due to discount rate reductions and past actuarial method changes.

² The assumed rate of return on investments is the discount rate plus 35 basis points for gain-sharing.

³ Reflects the restated aggregate employer contribution rate for the fiscal year following the valuation date.

⁴ The current year PRSAC approved employer contribution rate multiplied by restated current year projected payroll.

⁵ Reflects the projected aggregate employer contribution rate for fiscal year that begins one year after the valuation date.

TRSL Benefits & Recipients by Parish (FY 2020)

Parish	No. of recipients	Total benefits	Parish	No. of recipients	Total benefits
Acadia	845	\$ 20,240,599	Madison	207	\$ 5,442,009
Allen	378	\$ 10,457,098	Morehouse	395	\$ 9,580,212
Ascension	1,499	\$ 39,290,886	Natchitoches	871	\$ 25,255,368
Assumption	391	\$ 9,692,661	Orleans	4,001	\$ 120,238,928
Avoyelles	718	\$ 17,063,688	Ouachita	2,628	\$ 77,275,350
Beauregard	561	\$ 14,648,175	Plaquemines	219	\$ 6,390,044
Bienville	289	\$ 7,932,256	Pointe Coupee	375	\$ 9,539,986
Bossier	1,838	\$ 51,253,952	Rapides	2,382	\$ 58,437,928
Caddo	4,414	\$ 124,458,224	Red River	123	\$ 3,912,521
Calcasieu	3,272	\$ 86,442,794	Richland	364	\$ 10,158,615
Caldwell	186	\$ 4,192,321	Sabine	460	\$ 11,174,534
Cameron	102	\$ 3,194,996	St. Bernard	233	\$ 5,926,105
Catahoula	196	\$ 4,252,926	St. Charles	846	\$ 24,700,707
Claiborne	297	\$ 7,589,527	St. Helena	278	\$ 7,295,981
Concordia	337	\$ 8,087,777	St. James	445	\$ 12,570,563
DeSoto	489	\$ 13,101,543	St. John the Baptist	568	\$ 14,902,291
East Baton Rouge	7,463	\$ 238,402,224	St. Landry	1,702	\$ 43,628,459
East Carroll	131	\$ 3,353,039	St. Martin	761	\$ 17,408,966
East Feliciana	306	\$ 7,856,898	St. Mary	826	\$ 20,996,798
Evangeline	643	\$ 15,447,176	St. Tammany	3,849	\$ 108,094,440
Franklin	443	\$ 11,140,504	Tangipahoa	1,953	\$ 53,890,754
Grant	356	\$ 8,782,307	Tensas	102	\$ 2,254,596
Iberia	1,203	\$ 30,439,257	Terrebonne	1,574	\$ 39,716,126
Iberville	456	\$ 12,764,185	Union	360	\$ 8,750,037
Jackson	327	\$ 7,893,553	Vermillion	955	\$ 25,800,653
Jefferson	4,912	\$ 134,944,375	Vernon	694	\$ 16,276,849
Jefferson Davis	575	\$ 15,061,731	Washington	877	\$ 21,343,216
Lafayette	3,602	\$ 104,756,430	Webster	776	\$ 19,892,015
Lafourche	1,823	\$ 49,770,834	West Baton Rouge	329	\$ 8,795,072
LaSalle	280	\$ 6,866,347	West Carroll	258	\$ 6,003,419
Lincoln	1,070	\$ 33,755,623	West Feliciana	221	\$ 6,697,735
Livingston	1,570	\$ 41,397,949	Winn	310	\$ 7,640,564

5 Bills You Need to Know About

SB 6 - Senator Ed Price (COLA)

HB 259 - Rep. Tanner Magee (Limited Constitutional Convention)

HB 405 - Rep. Mark Wright (Constitutional Convention)

H.R. 82 - Congressman Rodney Davis-IL (Full Repeal of Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP))

S. 1302 - Senator Sherrod Brown-OH (Full Repeal of Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP))



LOUISIANA RETIRED
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

House Bills

Return to Work (RTW)		
HB 22 Author: Rep. Rick Edmonds		
Description: This bill proposes to amend the provision governing the 2020 return-to-work (RTW) law to increase the earnings limit under Option 1 from 25 percent of the retiree's final average compensation (FAC) to 50 percent of the retiree's FAC. The proposed increase would apply to retirees who returned to work prior to December 31, 2021 and would be repealed July 1, 2025.		
LRTA Position: Neutral		TRSL Position: Neutral
Status: Pending House Retirement		
HB 26 Author: Rep. Troy Romero		
Description: This bill proposes to amend the provision governing the 2020 return-to-work (RTW) law to increase the earnings limit under Option 1 from 25 percent of the retiree's final average compensation (FAC) to 50 percent of the retiree's FAC. There would be no time limit with this bill.		
LRTA Position: Neutral		TRSL Position: No Position
Status: Pending House Retirement		
HB 30 Author: Rep. Larry Frieman		
Description: This bill proposes repealing the 2010 RTW law and creates a new RTW law that would authorize the return to work of retirees in K-12 positions without the suspension or reduction of retirement benefits. This bill also authorizes that neither the retiree nor the employer shall make contributions to the system and the retiree shall not earn service credit. This would create potentially higher costs to the employer and/or the retirement system.		
LRTA Position: Oppose		TRSL Position: Oppose
Status: Pending House Retirement		



Investments	
HB 25 Author: Rep. Danny McCormick	
Description: This bill proposes to prohibit state retirement systems from investing in companies having policies that prohibit investing in energy companies, doing business with energy companies, and entering into contracts with energy companies or with any class or group of companies within the energy sector. This would restrict systems' abilities to invest in certain companies.	
LRTA Position: Oppose	TRSL Position: Oppose
Status: Pending House Retirement	
Payments Toward UAL	
HB 29 Author: Rep. Richard Nelson	
Description: (Proposed Constitutional Amendment) To require the legislature to appropriate no less than 50 percent of nonrecurring state revenue (surplus) for application to certain state retirement system unfunded accrued liability (UAL) beginning fiscal year 2023-2024.	
LRTA Position: Support	TRSL Position: Support
Status: Pending House Appropriations	
HB 592 Author: Rep. Jerome Zeringue	
Description: Makes supplemental payment toward Initial Unfunded Accrued Liability (IUAL) for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.	
LRTA Position: Support	TRSL Position: Support
Status: Pending House Appropriations	



Supplemental Benefit Payment		
HB 31		
Author: Rep. Phillip Tarver		
Description: (Proposed Constitutional Amendment) The proposed amendment would dedicate a certain amount of state nonrecurring revenue (surplus) to state retirement systems for supplemental benefit payments for eligible retirees. The amount to be used for such supplemental benefit would be the lesser of \$50 million or the balance of surplus money leftover after allocations are made for payments against retirement system debt and for the Budget Stabilization Fund. Retirees, beneficiaries or survivors must have been receiving a benefit by June 30 of the previous fiscal year in order to be eligible for the lump sum payment.		
LRTA Position: Support	TRSL Position: Support	
Status: Pending House Appropriations		
HB 32		
Author: Rep. Phillip Tarver		
Description: This is a companion bill for House Bill 31. Requires the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC) to certify and report to the legislature the number of persons in each state system who are eligible for the supplemental benefit after the committee adopts the official valuations for the state public retirement systems.		
LRTA Position: Support	TRSL Position: Support	
Status: Pending House Retirement		



Constitutional Convention		
HB 259 Author: Rep. Tanner Magee		
Description: Calls a limited constitutional convention to convene on Aug. 1, 2022, to be composed of 120 delegates, appointed from congressional districts by the speaker of the House, president of the Senate, governor, and chief justice of the supreme court. Requires convention to complete draft of proposed constitution by July 1, 2023. Although limited in nature, Article X of the Louisiana Constitution (which contains the lifetime benefit guarantee for retirees) is included in the call.		
LRTA Position: Oppose		TRSL Position: Monitoring
Status: Pending House and Governmental Affairs		
HB 405 Author: Rep. Mark Wright		
Description: Calls a constitutional convention preceded by plan for the convention and a draft proposed constitution by an Planning and Drafting Committee. Calls convention to convene on July 8, 2024, to be composed of 132 delegates, 105 elected from representative districts and 27 appointed. Requires convention to complete a new constitution by June 1, 2026.		
LRTA Position: Oppose		TRSL Position: Monitoring
Status: Pending House and Governmental Affairs		



Senate Bills

Permanent Benefit Increase (PBI)		
SB 6 Author: Senator Ed Price		
Description: This bill grants a two percent permanent benefit increase (PBI), also known as a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), to eligible retirees and beneficiaries of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL). Eligible retirees must be at least age 60 and retired for one year. The benefit increase will be applied to the first \$68,396 of the annual benefit currently received from TRSL.		
LRTA Position: Support		TRSL Position: Support
Status: Pending Senate Retirement		
Optional Retirement Plan		
SB 10 Author: Senator Jay Morris and Senator Jay Luneau		
Description: This bill allows a current participant in the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) to transfer into the defined benefit plan offered by TRSL. The provisions of this bill, should it become law, will remain in effect through June 30, 2028.		
LRTA Position: No Position		TRSL Position: No Position
Status: Pending Senate Retirement		



Congressional Bills – Tracking with positions

House	
HR 82	Author: Rep. Rodney Davis IL-13
Description: Full repeal (removal) of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).	
LRTA Position: Support	
Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. All La. U.S. Reps have co-sponsored.	
Senate	
S. 1302	Author: Senator Sherrod Brown OH
Description: Full repeal (removal) of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).	
LRTA Position: Support	
Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. All La. U.S. Senators have co-sponsored.	



LOUISIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

2022 Legislative Priorities

LRTA supports legislation that will positively affect retired teachers and opposes legislation that will adversely affect retired teachers. LRTA also supports efforts to maintain adequate funding for top quality public education in Louisiana. Although these priorities are listed in numerical order, the items listed are all top priorities of LRTA.

1. LRTA **supports** a retirement benefit structure administered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana that includes adequate and stable funding for regular cost-of-living increases to preserve the purchasing power of retirees.
2. LRTA **supports** dedicated allocations from state funds to meet the state's obligation to reduce the Initial Unfunded Accrued Liabilities (IUALs) of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana without causing an adverse budget impact on public education agencies or retirees.
3. LRTA **supports** state revenue enhancements that provide a meaningful economic impact on retired educators in enhancing their dignity, independence and overall quality of life.
4. LRTA **supports** funding from state funds to offset increasing costs of health insurance premiums and other benefits for retired educators offered by the Office of Group Benefits and other health care insurers and providers.
5. LRTA **opposes** any action that would negatively impact the actuarial soundness of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
6. LRTA **opposes** the consolidation of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana with any other retirement system.
7. LRTA **opposes** the consolidation of assets of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana with any other retirement system, and opposes any other action that would dilute membership control of the investment of the assets of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
8. LRTA **opposes** any action that would alter the current defined benefit structure offered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to its members.
9. LRTA **supports** a viable, adequately funded public education program that requires educators to become members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
10. LRTA **opposes** the provision of state funded scholarships/vouchers for public elementary and secondary school students to attend private and non-public schools.
11. LRTA **supports** repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) of the Social Security Administration and opposes mandatory Social Security coverage of public employees in Louisiana.
12. LRTA **supports** the continuation of Louisiana state income tax exemption for retirement benefits issued by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
13. LRTA **opposes** any legislation or bill that would cut or diminish Medicare benefits.
14. LRTA **opposes** any legislation that calls for a state constitutional convention.

ROAD MAP TO A COLA

Follow the path SB 6 must take in the Louisiana Legislature!

(NOTE: This graphic demonstrates the hypothetical path the bill could take in the Legislature. LRTA will update this graphic should this process change.)

1

*The Regular Legislative Session begins on March 14. Since the COLA bill is a Senate Bill, it will begin in the Senate Retirement Committee.

2

Pending approval from the Senate Retirement Committee, SB 6 then moves on to the Senate Finance Committee.

3

*After SB 6 passes the Senate Finance Committee, it will move on to a vote from the full Senate.

4

*If the bill passes the Senate, it moves on to the House Chamber. The House will refer SB 6 to the House Retirement Committee.

5

*Pending approval from the House Retirement Committee, SB 6 is read for the third time and debated on the House Floor.

6

If the House passes the bill (with no additional amendments that require Senate review), the bill moves on to the Governor's desk.

*= Be prepared for an Action Alert!

Upon signature of the Governor, the bill becomes a law.



LOUISIANA RETIRED
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

COLA: Fact v. FICTION

This one-pager helps to debunk common myths surrounding funding for cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for Louisiana retired teachers and highlight the facts about COLAs.

FICTION: COLAs are funded through the state general fund.

Contrary to popular belief, COLAs are NOT funded through the state general fund. COLAs are not a line item in the state budget, and funding for COLAs does not come from state dollars.

FACT: COLAs are funded through excess investment earnings.

Excess investment earnings occur when TRSL earns more investment dollars than needed to fund regular retirement benefits. Currently, TRSL's Experience Account (an account created by the Legislature solely for holding funds to pay COLAs) balance is \$350 million, enough funds for the projected cost of a 2 percent COLA.

FICTION: The COLA will cost the state too much money.

Again, COLAs are not funded through state dollars. Rather, COLAs are funded through excess investment earnings of the retirement system. State dollars are not used to fund COLAs.

FACT: Granting a COLA will not disrupt any of the pension reforms the legislature has enacted.

Since 2009, the state has enacted significant pension reform, including restructuring the Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL), or debt, payment plan to make payments more level and steer more of the retirement system's excess investment earnings toward reducing the UAL. Nearly \$2 billion in excess earnings have been directed to the UAL. Even through the economic downturn of 2020, TRSL has maintained stable financial posture.

FICTION: Money that should be used to pay down the debt is going toward the COLA.

Funding for COLAs comes from the excess investment earnings of the retirement system credited to the Experience Account. Experience Accounts are accounts created by the Legislature and designated solely for holding funds to pay COLAs. Funding COLAs does not "take away" from any payments toward the UAL or debt. In fact, more excess investment earnings are now directed toward reducing the UAL before crediting the Experience Account.

FACT: TRSL is continuing to make debt payments regularly, paying down both the interest and principal.

In 2021, TRSL reduced the UAL balance by \$1 billion. In addition, the funded status of TRSL has jumped from 67.9 percent to 71.8 percent and assets are at an all-time high of \$26.9 billion. TRSL has continued to make regular debt payments, which has led to the positive financial position of the retirement system. The initial unfunded accrued liability (IUAL) is scheduled to be paid off by 2029.



LOUISIANA RETIRED
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

COLA REFORM PROJECT

Timeline of Study & Development of Structure

2020 - Legislature Passes COLA Study Resolutions

Legislature passed SR 15 and HR 21
Four State Systems prepared study which provided historical information and data on COLAs in Louisiana, types of COLAs, and funding for COLAs, and outlined five alternative methods of funding COLAS
Study presented to joint retirement committee meeting in December 2020

2021 - Systems Narrow Focus and Explore Changes

Systems narrowed focus to primarily one of the alternative funding methods for further development
Systems began to explore potential changes to eligibility criteria and the complexity surrounding the granting matrix
Actuarial costs review began for certain models for preliminary look at whether certain funding options were viable

2022 - Continued Discussions, Outreach and Modeling

January | Systems resume their work as a group to determine:
- Differences in timing and approach that may be necessary
- Review of eligibility criteria
- Actuarial calculations utilizing various scenarios to be prepared by all systems
March | Meeting with chairs and leaders on retirement committee to provide update on status of continued study and to discuss next steps
2022 Regular Legislative Session
- Study request – focused on narrow approach and due in October
- COLA education for retirement committees
April - September
- Actuarial and other modeling and further evaluation
- Enhanced stakeholder outreach
October - November
- Report submitted; joint retirement committee meeting for further general COLA education and education on new proposal
December 2022 - January 2023
- Draft bill ready for discussion; joint retirement committee meeting for education on new proposal
- Individual or small group meetings conducted with legislators, as determined necessary (ongoing until start of session and then into session)

2023 - Bill is Filed with Varied Implementation both the interest and

Bill proposing new COLA structure filed; full implementation will vary by system, but law in place July 1, 2023

Analysis of Potential COLA Reform Legislation

Commencement

The commencement of COLA reform would coincide with the payoff of the IUAL.

Transition from indirect employer contribution funding to direct employer contribution funding.

- Not requesting employer to fund something new, just a different way of funding the COLA
- The employer currently funds COLAs by relinquishing the gains that are placed in the experience account (i.e., gainsharing).
- The gainsharing lessens the amount that is available to reduce the employer contribution.

Funding would be put in a separate account.

Questions Still to be Considered

What will be the eligibility parameters? (Currently 60 age/1 year)

What number of retirees make below the legislative cap?

What number of retirees have been retired less than 3 years?

Should the criteria include years of service rather than just years retired?

Should employer contributions increase by a percentage or dollar amount?

How often should COLAs be provided and by what percentage?

How sensitive will employer increase be to any change in the Discount Rate?

LSERS and STPOL do not have Experience Accounts; their solution will differ from that of LASERS and TRSL.

TALKING POINTS: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS

OPPOSE HB 259 by Rep. Tanner Magee and HB 405 by Rep. Mark Wright

What is a Constitutional Convention?

The purpose of a constitutional convention is to either write a new constitution or reform / revise an existing constitution. Delegates are appointed to review or rewrite the constitution.

Why does LRTA OPPOSE a Constitutional Convention?

- Per Article X, Section 29 (A), the Louisiana Constitution guarantees lifetime retirement benefits to TRSL retirees. The state constitution has included this guarantee since 1973. A constitutional convention has the potential to remove this guarantee. Therefore, the state would no longer be required to pay retired teachers pensions (that they EARNED).
- A constitutional convention could also remove budgetary protections from other areas of the constitution, such as education funding. Inadequate or inconsistent funding would affect the school systems' ability to pay the employer's cost to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL).
- As the voice for the retired education community, LRTA opposes any legislative action that would negatively affect retired teachers and/or their pensions.
- The state can amend the constitutional convention through legislation.

Bottom Line

- Currently, there are two bills (HB 259 by Rep. Tanner Magee and HB 405 by Rep. Mark Wright) that call for a constitutional convention.
- A constitutional convention **could** affect your retirement benefits. If the constitutional guarantee of lifetime benefits is removed, the state would not be required to pay public pensions.
- Although HB 259 calls for a limited constitutional convention, Article X of the Louisiana Constitution (which contains the lifetime benefit guarantee for retirees) is included in the call.
- Removing budgetary protections from other areas of the constitution can also affect our retirement system.

What Can You Do?

Start talking to your state Representatives and Senators NOW. They need to know about the issues that affect their constituents. To find your Representatives' and Senators' contact information, see the attachment or go to <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/FindMyLegislators.aspx>.

Make sure you are a member of the LRTA Email Club! Members will receive Action Alerts and legislative updates about HB 259 and other bills.

Continue to check the LRTA Facebook page and website, www.lрта.net, for updates.

HOW YOU CAN JOIN US ON THE ROAD TO A COLA!

- » **Join the LRTA Email Club!** Email Club members receive regular legislative updates on bills LRTA is monitoring or tracking throughout the session. Email Club members will also receive “Action Alerts” when it is time to contact legislators. Action Alerts will include links to the LRTA VoterVoice tool.
- » **Practice using our VoterVoice tool!** VoterVoice is an advocacy tool LRTA has purchased for our members to make it easier to contact your legislators. Simply type in your mailing address and VoterVoice will match you to your legislators. The VoterVoice tool even includes a pre-written message for you to send to legislators (you may also personalize your message). It just takes one click of a button to contact your legislators. Practice using VoterVoice with our mock campaign on our website. You’ll be a pro by the time you receive your first Action Alert!
- » **Check out our other resources in the Advocacy Center!** Go to www.lrta.net/advocacycenter, and click on the “Resources” section for talking points and how-to’s. You can also find our Legislative Priorities, Bills Tracking webpage, and more important tools for the session!
- » **Contact your legislators!** LRTA provides advocacy tools to help you email and write letters to your legislators. Keep an eye on your inbox and the LRTA Facebook page and website for Action Alerts to let you know when the time is right to send those messages. Making a personal connection with legislators is also important. Call them or say “hello” when you see them at the grocery store. This makes a huge impact.
- » **Make sure you are an active member of LRTA!** Membership renewal notices were sent in January. If you have not done so already, please renew your membership dues with LRTA. This will ensure you continue to receive regular communication from our organization.



LOUISIANA RETIRED
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Dear Senator:

My name is _____ and I am a retired educator from _____.
[Add something personal about your educational experiences.]

I am writing to ask that you support Senate Bill 6 by Senator Ed Price. This bill will provide a 2 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to retired teachers in Louisiana.

Most retirees have not received a COLA since 2016. For many retired teachers, their pension is their primary source of retirement income. As the rate of inflation continues to rise, the purchasing power for retirees will erode.

[You may want to include a personal testimony of how you would benefit from SB 6.]

Retired teachers have worked hard and supported Louisiana's students for many years in the classroom. We have earned our benefits, and we need our benefits to maintain our overall quality of life. A COLA would also allow retired teachers to further contribute to their local and state economies. National research shows pensions supported nearly \$6 billion in total economic output in Louisiana in 2018.

Funding for the COLA will come from the excess investment earnings of the retirement system credited to the Experience Account. This account is designed to specifically hold funds for a COLA. The funding for SB 6 will not come from the state's general fund. Essentially, providing this COLA will be at no cost to the state.

Again, please support Senate Bill 6. It has now been nearly six years since retired teachers in Louisiana have received a COLA. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.



LOUISIANA RETIRED
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

PLEASE SUPPORT SB 6

LRTA Member Name

Address, City, State and Zip Code

Dear _____

Sincerely, _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF LOUISIANA'S RETIRED TEACHERS!

Dear Representative/Senator (insert name here)

My name is (insert name here) and I am a(n) active/retired educator from (insert location here). I have/retired with (insert years of experience here). (Add something personal about your educational experiences.)

I am writing to ask that you oppose HB 259 authored by Representative Tanner Magee calling for a limited constitutional convention. I am concerned about this bill for several reasons. As a retired teacher, I am concerned about the protection of my retirement benefits.

According to Article X, Section 29 (A) of the current constitution, Louisiana guarantees my retirement benefits for life. Even though the constitutional convention is limited to certain items, Article X is included in the call. If a constitutional convention were to occur, my greatest fear is that this guarantee would be removed.

I am concerned that a constitutional convention would create a pathway to remove constitutional protections of retirement benefits for hundreds of thousands of Louisiana retirees. Again, please oppose HB 259. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Regards (or closing of your choice),

Dear Representative/Senator (insert name here)

My name is (insert name here) and I am a(n) active/retired educator from (insert location here). I have/retired with (insert years of experience here). (Add something personal about your educational experiences.)

I am writing to ask that you oppose HB 405 authored by Representative Mark Wright calling for a constitutional convention. I am concerned about this bill for several reasons. As a retired teacher, I am concerned about the protection of my retirement benefits.

According to Article X, Section 29 (A) of the current constitution, Louisiana guarantees my retirement benefits for life. If a constitutional convention were to occur, my greatest fear is that this guarantee would be removed.

Aside from my retirement benefits, I am also concerned about the guaranteed funding to public schools through the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP). Any budgetary items guaranteed by the Louisiana Constitution are up for grabs. I may be retired from the classroom, but my heart remains with our current educators and Louisiana's children. I am worried that a constitutional convention would create more instability than what Representative Wright is suggesting.

Again, please oppose House Bill 405. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Regards (or closing of your choice),

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**April 25-26, 2022
Embassy Suites
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**LRTA Executive Board Meeting
Pre-convention Banquet
TRSL Presentation
LRTA Writing Activity
And more!**

In-person attendance will be limited to the first 100 who register. Additional seats for in-person attendance may become available if health and safety restrictions change in correlation with the COVID-19 pandemic. Any additional seats will be advertised on the LRTA website (www.lrta.net) and Facebook page. Members of the LRTA Email Club will also receive email notification of any additional seats.