

LRTA ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

2025 Regular Legislative Session



W.A.C.K.*

Bill No. SB 7

By Senator Valarie Hodges, District 13

***Write. Anticipate. Contact. Keep in Touch.**

*(This check list is provided for your personal use. This document serves as a resource only.
Please write your letters and send out no later than Monday, April 7, 2025.)*

WRITE: Letter Check List ✓

- Write** your letters to members of the Senate Retirement Committee. Handwritten letters are preferred but typed and signed is effective too.
- Write the body of the letter and make copies and hand write the name of the Senator with your personal signature.
- Address the envelopes or emails using the contact information in your packet (Senate and House Retirement Committee Members).
- Phone calls and personal conversations are encouraged using the attached information but wait until we notify you when to make contact.

(Note: Pick and choose 1 or 2 points that apply to you. It is NOT necessary to fill out all of these in your letter.)

ANTICIPATE: ✓

- Anticipate** the time to contact legislators.
- The regular legislative session begins April 14, 2025. Now is the time to write your letters and send to the Senate Retirement Committee no later than Monday, April 7, 2025.



CONTACT: ✓

- Contact** legislators via letters and emails but **hold** communication and calls until we notify you. Our intent is to kill the bill early in session when it goes before the Senate Retirement Committee.
- Join the LRTA email club by going to lrta.net and scroll down to the bottom of the home page. Check our FB page and the LRTA website for current updates.
- It is important to participate in the letter and email writing campaigns, as well as making phone calls and personal conversations.
- Additionally, we will ask LRTA members to join us at the Capitol to fill out cards in opposition to SB We anticipate the first meeting after April 14, 2025. **We will notify you.**

KEEP IN TOUCH: ✓

- Keep** in touch through our email club, website, Facebook page, and word of mouth
- Reproduce these materials and pass them on to LRTA members

LRTA Objective: ✓

- 1. Our first contact will be to kill the bill in Senate Retirement.
- 2. Our second contact will be to kill the bill in the Senate.
- 3. Our third contact will be to kill the bill in House Retirement.
- 4. Our fourth contact will be to kill the bill in the House.
- 5. Our fifth contact will be to contact the Governor and ask for a veto of SB 7.

For additional information or to request these advocacy tool kits for district and unit members contact the LRTA office at (225) 927-8837 and ask to speak with Amanda Bourgeois, LRTA Communications Coordinator / email bourgeois@lrta.net.



ESG APPEAL SAMPLE LETTER

Dear [Senator/Representative]

I am a retired teacher. I spent [insert number] years in the classroom serving the children of this state and the one thing that was certain throughout my career was the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL). I always knew that when I retired, it would be there for me and my husband/wife until we died. So, you will see how important it is to me and many others in Louisiana that TRSL continues to perform well!

Because I am actively involved with the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (LRTA), I am familiar with all the pension reforms over the years and how Louisiana is a leader in this area, because it did impact teacher COLAs (or lack of COLAs). We thank the legislature for finally creating a fix for the COLA problem in 2023. Retirees remain patient in waiting for that plan to be implemented at full speed.

Senate Bill 7 (SB 7): When I see bills like SB 7, I panic. SB 7 is similar to SB 5 from last year, which means the expected impact on the state retirement systems will be **the loss of at least \$6.2 billion** as a result of decreased investment income because of the bill. Why would we put a law into place that may create state debt, cost billions, and hurt a system that has been a great success story for Louisiana thus far?

This seems like a solution in search of a problem! Please leave politics out of this – thousands of retirees are counting on Louisiana leadership to **help, not hurt** the retirement system.

If that's not enough to explain my concern, here are some points made in the debate of SB 5 last year that I think are worth repeating:

- **TRSL has strong fiduciary standards and statutory investment requirements already in place to safeguard assets.**
- **The System's investment policy has a clear set of guidelines for prudent management and investment of assets.**
- **That policy already requires that investment decisions be evaluated solely on how well they can make the System more money with minimal risk.**

As well-intentioned as ESG legislation may be, there is real concern that it will limit the system's investment options, not because the system engages in ESG investing, but because it is easier for investment managers to do business with pension systems and investors in other states. If we are trying to welcome more business to engage in business with Louisiana, this certainly will not help.

Lower investment returns for our state pension systems will have a ripple effect on employer contributions rates and state debt, and it will all start with an unnecessary law if SB 7 passes.

Sincerely,

[Insert Name]



2025 SENATE RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

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<i>(continued on next page)</i>	



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