

**2014 LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
RSEA LEGISLATIVE REPORT -- 4/9/2014**

| <b>RSEA<br/>Position</b> | <b><u>Bill Description</u></b>  |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Neutral</b>           | <b>HB 25 by Representative Talbot</b><br><b>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Prohibits membership in the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS) and the Teachers' Retirement System of La (TRSL) for employees hired on or after September 1, 2014 at: 1) La Federation of Teachers, 2) La. Association of Educators, 3) Associated Professional Educators of La and 4) La. Resource Center for Educators.  |
| <b>Support</b>           | <b>HB 30 by Representatives Jones and Havard</b><br><b>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Provides a permanent benefit increase of 1.5%, funded by the LASERS experience account, to eligible retirees and beneficiaries of LASERS. Eligible retirees and beneficiaries are: 1) any non-disability retiree who has attained the age of sixty and who has been retired for at least one year, 2) any disability retiree, regardless of age, who has been retired for at least one year and any beneficiary of such a retiree, 3) any beneficiary of a non-disability retiree if the beneficiary or the retiree, or both combined, have received benefits for at least one year and the retiree would have attained age sixty by the time of the increase. |
| <b>Support</b>           | <b>HB 34 by Representative Jones</b><br><b>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Authorizes a supplemental benefit increase (amount to be determined) for certain retirees and beneficiaries of LASERS. The supplemental benefit increase shall be in addition to the proposed 1.5% permanent benefit increase.   |
| <b>Neutral</b>           | <b>HB 38 by Representative Pearson</b><br><b>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>For rank-and-file members joining LASERS on or after July 1, 2014, changes the retirement age from 60 to 62. Provides that such members are eligible for retirement at age 62 after five years of service.   |
| <b>Oppose</b>            | <b>HB 40 by Representative Pearson</b><br><b>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Provides that that any remaining funds in the LASERS experience account after payment of a permanent benefit increase to eligible retiree and beneficiaries effective July 1, 2014 be applied to the initial unfunded accrued liability of LASERS.   |
| <b>Oppose</b>            | <b>HB 64 by Representative Havard</b><br><b>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Adds to the Hazardous Duty Services Plan in LASERS new employees of the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System whose primary job duties bring them in direct contact with patients in the forensic program.   |

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| <b>Oppose</b>            | <b>HB 78 by Representative Montoucet</b><br><b>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Provides for additional and retroactive retirement benefits for adult probation and parole officers in the primary component of LASERS who were employed on or before 12.31/2001.  |
| <b>Neutral</b>           | <b>HB 79 by Representative Pearson</b><br><b>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Provides for administration of the Harbor Police Retirement System by the board of trustees of LASERS. Further provides for harbor police employees hired on or after July 1, 2014 to be enrolled in the Hazardous Duty Services Plan in LASERS.   |
| <b>Oppose</b>            | <b>HB 80 by Representative Miller</b><br><b>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Provides limitations on the percentage of public retirement system, plan, or fund money that may be invested in certain type of assets.   |
| <b>Neutral</b>           | <b>HB 81 by Representative Nancy Landry</b><br><b>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Prohibits membership in LASERS and TRSL for new hires on or after September 1, 2014 for the following entities: 1) La. Federation of Teachers, 2) La. Association of Educators, 3) Associated Professional Educators of LA and 4) La. Resource Center for Educators.  |
| <b>Support</b>           | <b>HB 83 by Representative Johnson</b><br><b>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Provides for the calculation of the retiree's portion of health insurance premiums for certain Hazardous Duty Services Plan retirees in the same manner as other state retirees. Present law requires members who transferred in to the Haz Duty Plan and who retired under provisions that allowed them to collect a retirement benefit earlier than they otherwise would have to pay an increased proportion of their health insurance premiums. Proposed law removes the requirement for increased proportion and requires the health insurance premiums for these Haz Duty Plan members to be calculated according to RS 42:851. |
| <b>Support</b>           | <b>HB 84 by Representative Katrina Jackson</b><br><b>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Authorizes a supplemental benefit increase (amount to be determined) for certain retirees and beneficiaries of LASERS.   |

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| <b>Support</b>                            | <b>HB 85 by Representative Katrina Jackson<br/>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Provides a permanent benefit increase of 1.5% funded by LASERS experience account, to eligible retirees and beneficiaries of LASERS.   |
| <b>Oppose<br/>In<br/>Present<br/>Form</b> | <b>HB 86 by Representative Ivey<br/>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Provides for application of certain amounts of state retirement system investment returns to debts of the system and increases the investment experience threshold a state retirement system must attain before funds may be transferred to the experience accounts, which are used to fund cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). Proposed legislation generally provides for application of investment returns at a state retirement system that are in excess of the system's actuarially assumed rate of return and below 10% to be applied to debts of the system. Further changes the threshold at which excess returns are credited to the system experience account from the actuarially assumed rate of return to an actuarial rate of 10%. |
| <b>Support</b>                            | <b>HB 88 by Representative Barrow (constitutional amendment)<br/>Referred to House Appropriations Committee</b><br>Establishes the Seniors' Supplement Fund through the dedication of certain nonrecurring revenues for the making of occasional supplemental payments to eligible retirees and beneficiaries of the state retirement system.   |
| <b>Support</b>                            | <b>HB 90 by Representative Barrow (companion bill to HB 88)<br/>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Requires and provides for conditions and procedures for the provision of occasional supplemental payments to eligible retirees and beneficiaries of the four state retirement systems to the extent that monies are available from the Seniors' Supplement Fund.  |
| <b>Oppose</b>                             | <b>HB 93 by Representative Shadoin<br/>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Authorizes a judge who took office prior to October 2, 1996, to transfer service credit from the District Attorneys' Retirement System to LASERS without cost.   |
| <b>Neutral</b>                            | <b>HB 96 by Representative Edwards (constitutional amendment)<br/>Referred to House Judiciary Committee</b><br>Removes the mandatory retirement age of judges.  |

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| <b>Support<br/>With<br/>Amendments</b> | <b>HB 493 by Representative Harrison<br/>Referred to House Appropriations Committee</b><br>Constitutional Amendment that creates the Bet on Louisiana's Future Fund for the deposit of certain gaming proceeds. Would provide funds for payments against the unfunded accrued liability of the public retirement systems.  |
| <b>Support</b>                         | <b>HB 1026 by Representative Fannin<br/>Referred to House Appropriations Committee</b><br>Provides for the transfer and deposit of monies among state funds. Includes language directing the state treasurer to transfer \$6 million for unfunded accrued liability (UAL) payments to LASERS and TRSL and further provides that 5% of any remaining nonrecurring revenues shall be available for appropriation to the UAL of LASERS and TRSL.  |
| <b>Support</b>                         | <b>HB 1094 by Representative Fanin<br/>Referred to House Appropriations Committee</b><br>Supplemental Appropriations Bill which includes the appropriation of \$5,085,165 to the LASERS to be used to reamortize the remaining outstanding balance of the system's initial Unfunded Accrued Liability.   |
| <b>Neutral</b>                         | <b>HB 1225 by Representative Robideaux<br/>Referred to House Retirement Committee</b><br>Requires the four state retirement systems (LASERS, TRSL, LSERS, & STPOL) to apply certain amounts of excess investment returns to their outstanding debt and limits creation of additional liabilities through benefit increases.  |
| <b>Support</b>                         | <b>HCR 33 by Representative Burns</b><br>Memorializes congress to review and eliminate the provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security Benefits for persons receiving pensions from federal, state or local governmental retirement systems.  |
| <b>Support</b>                         | <b>SB 3 by Senator Guillory<br/>Referred to Senate Retirement Committee</b><br>Authorizes the superintendent of state police to levy a transaction assessment on each game authorized pursuant to the Louisiana Gaming Control Law. Provides that the assessment shall not exceed three cents per game or transaction. Specifies that the assessment shall cease on the June 30 <sup>th</sup> following adoption by the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee of valuations for the four state systems determining the systems are at least 90% funded. Further dedicates the proceeds of the authorized assessment to liquidating the unfunded accrued liabilities and to funding benefit increases for retirees of the four state retirement systems. |

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**RSEA  
Position  
Support**

**Bill Description**

**SB 13 by Senator Peacock**

**Referred to Senate Retirement Committee**

Proposed law changes the valuation method of each system to entry age normal, effective with the adoption by the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee of a valuation for that system utilizing that method. Provides that allocations to the original amortization base, the experience account amortization base, and the experience account are made only from earnings in excess of the actuarially assumed rate of return utilized in the system's June 30, 2013 valuation, or the board approved actuarial valuation rate if higher (currently both 8%). Provides that this threshold shall be used in each systems' June 30, 2014 valuation. Specifies that application of the allocations to the amortization bases shall be used to each systems' June 30, 2014 valuation. Specifies that application of the allocations to the amortization bases shall be without reamortization.

**Oppose**

**SB 15 by Senator Ward**

**Referred to Senate Retirement Committee**

Provides for a survivor lump-sum benefit option for the surviving spouse of a judge who, at the time of this death: 1) was in state service, 2) was eligible to receive a retirement benefit at a rate of 100% of his average compensation, 3) was eligible to select the Initial Benefit Option pursuant to present law. Provides that the survivor lump-sum benefit shall be calculated as if the member had retired the day preceding his death and selected the option in present law. Provides for the survivor to select the amount of the lump sum, however, the lump sum selected shall not exceed 36 months of the judge's maximum allowance.

**Support**

**SB 18 by Senator Guillory, Kostelka, Gary Smith, John Smith and Walsworth and Representatives Henry Burns, Burrell, Guillory, Hazel, Hill, Hoffmann, Price and Richard**

**Referred to Senate Retirement Committee**

Provides for a 1.5% permanent benefit increase to eligible retirees, survivors, and beneficiaries of LASERS.

**Support**

**SB 22 by Senator Guillory**

**Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

Dedicates 5% of revenue generated by taxes, fees and assessments related to the legalization of marijuana to the four state retirement systems. Provides for allocation of this revenue among the systems. Provides for 80% of each system's allocation to be applied to reduce system debt and 20% to be applied to funding for post-retirement benefit increases (COLAs).

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| <b>Neutral</b>           | <b>SB 26 by Senator Guillory</b><br><b>Referred to Senate Retirement Committee</b><br>Provides for the assessment of employer contributions to fund projected noninvestment related administrative expenses for each fiscal year as a component in the determination of the annual required employer contributions for each of the four state public retirement systems.   |
| <b>Support</b>           | <b>SB 27 by Senator Walsworth</b><br><b>Referred to Senate Retirement Committee</b><br>Provides for a supplemental benefit increase (amount to be determined) for retirees, survivors, and beneficiaries eligible for a PBI pursuant to present experience account law. Provides that this increase shall be an additional amount to be determined later.  |
| <b>Support</b>           | <b>SB 30 by Senator Cortez</b><br><b>Referred to Senate Retirement Committee</b><br>Provides for technical corrections regarding spousal consent, survivors' benefits and post-DROP contribution rates.  |
| <b>Neutral</b>           | <b>SB 613 by Senator Gary Smith</b><br><b>Referred to Senate Finance Committee</b><br>Retains present law and provides for a 75% state contribution for any person who retired on or after May 1, 2013, and on or before May 31, 2013, who participated in OGB health insurance for more than 18 years, whose doctor certifies that on the date of his retirement he was medically unable to perform his job duties, if the sum of his accumulated unused leave on his retirement date plus his years of participation in OGB, rounded to the nearest year, is 20 years or more. |
| <b>Support</b>           | <b>SB 673 by Senator Guillory</b><br><b>Referred to Senate Retirement</b><br>Present law contains provisions enacted by Act 483 of the 2012 Regular Session (Cash Balance Plan) which was later ruled unconstitutional. Proposed law restores the statutes to their previous form.   |
| <b>Support</b>           | <b>SCR 5 by Senator Guillory</b><br>Memorializes Congress to eliminate the reductions in federal law applicable to social security benefits, commonly referred to as the GPO and WEP, for those receiving public retirement system benefits.   |