

**2012 LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE SESSION**  
**RSEA FINAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT (TOTAL # 44: 9 – Passed; 35 – Did Not Pass)**  
**RSEA Sponsored Bills Are Highlighted in Green**  
**Pension Reform Bills (proposed by Governor Jindal) Highlighted in Yellow**

**RSEA**  
**Position**  
**Oppose**

**Bill Description**

**HB 5 by Representative Pearson (Duplicate of SB 2 by Senator Guillory)**

Authorizes the House and Senate Retirement Committee Chairmen to designate legislative staff to attend any executive session of any board or committee meeting of any state or statewide retirement system.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**Oppose**

**HB 9 (constitutional amendment) and HB 10 by Representatives Ligi and Champagne**

Provides for the forfeiture of public retirement benefits for any person convicted of a felony related to his public office or employment. Authorizes the legislature to apply forfeited benefits toward the system's unfunded accrued liability.

**Final Status – HB 9 - Act 868 – Effective upon voter approval**

**Final Status – HB 10 – Act 479 – Effective upon approval of constitutional amendment**

**Neutral**

**HB 13 by Representatives Talbot**

Prohibits part-time elected or appointed officials from continuing to accrue service credit in a public retirement system for service after December 31, 2012.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**Oppose**

**HB 14 by Representative Talbot**

Relative to state and statewide retirement systems. Requires the suspension of benefits for reemployed retirees of these systems who retire on or after July 1, 2012, and prohibits the accrual of additional benefits during such period. Further requires employers and reemployed retirees to notify the systems of reemployment.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**Neutral**

**HB 21 by Representative Talbot**

Prohibits part-time public officials who were grandfathered into membership in public retirement systems from continuing to receive service credit after December 31, 2012.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**Oppose**

**HB 22 by Representative Montoucet**

Provides for additional retirement benefits for adult probation and parole officers employed on or before 12/31/2001.

**Final Status – Passed as an amendment to HB 988; HB 988 Vetoed**

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**RSEA**  
**Position**  
**Neutral**

**Bill Description**

**HB 33 by Representative Brossett**

Provides that the Harbor Police Retirement System may merge into the LASERS Hazardous Plan if approved by the LASERS Board, the Port of New Orleans and the Harbor Police Retirement System.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**Neutral**

**HB 38 by Representative Jones**

Requires retirement systems to notify each other when retirees with a reciprocal agreement return to work, so that retirement benefits can be stopped. Amended to forgive a debt owed to a retirement system

**Final Status – Vetoed**

**Oppose**

**HB 42 (constitutional amendment) and HB 43 by Representative Champagne**

Provides for the forfeiture of public retirement benefits for any person convicted of a felony related to his public office or employment.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**OPPOSE**

**HB 53 by Representative Pearson (Duplicate of SB 51/SB 749 by Senator Guillory)**

Increases the minimum retirement eligibility of rank-and-file employees and judges elected after July 1, 2012, to the higher age of 67 or the highest retirement age provided by the Social Security Act.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**Neutral**

**HB 54 by Representative Pearson (Duplicate of SB 48)**

Adds the Commissioner of Administration or his designee to the boards of LASERS and TRSL and La. School Employees Retirement System (LSERS).

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**OPPOSE**

**HB 55 by Representative Pearson (Duplicate of SB 47 by Senator Guillory)**

Relative to LASERS and TRSL; changes from a three-year to a five-year Final Average Compensation (FAC) and applies a 15% anti-spiking rule for state employees and higher education employees (exempts hazardous duty LASERS members).

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

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**Position**  
**OPPOSE**

**Bill Description**

**HB 56 by Representative Pearson (Duplicate of SB 52 by Senator Guillory)**

Relative to LASERS and TRSL by increasing the employee contribution rate for certain members by 2%. Exempts hazardous duty members.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**Support**

**HB 59 by Representative Pearson**

Proposed law applies to LASERS and State Police Retirement System (STPOL). Provides that amortization payments to LASERS be made in a lump sum as soon as practicable after July 1<sup>st</sup>. The employer contribution rate shall be reduced to reflect the direct amortizations payments.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**OPPOSE**

**HB 61 by Representative Pearson (Duplicate of SB 53 by Senator Guillory)**

Creates a cash balance retirement plan for non-hazardous duty members of LASERS and higher education members of TRSL who are hired on or after July 1, 2013.

**Final Status – Act 483 – Effective June 30, 2012**

**SUPPORT**

**HB 963 by Representative Johnson**

Provides that the Office of Group Benefits shall not enter into any contract authorized in present law unless the provisions of the contract receive prior approval through an act of the legislature adopted by a favorable vote of at least a majority of the elected member of each house. Further provides that the Office of Group Benefits shall not enter into any agreement for the sale of business or services under any plan offered through the Office of Group Benefits unless the provisions of the agreement receive prior approval through an act of the legislature adopted by a favorable vote of at least a majority of the elected member of each house.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**Oppose**

**HB 985 by Representative Thompson**

Relative to state retirement systems, establishes a defined contribution plan for members of such plans who are hired on or after January 1, 2013.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

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**RSEA**  
**Position**  
**OPPOSE**

**Bill Description**

**HB 1018 by Representative Pearson**

Requires each state retirement system to be at least 80% funded before investment earnings can be transferred to accounts used to fund COLAs.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**OPPOSE**

**HB 1132 by Representative Pearson**

Requires the LASERS Experience Account be divided into two subaccounts; Hazardous Duty and Rank & File. Requires that members receive a COLA only if the system is 80% funded.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**Support**

**HCSR 3 by Representative Pearson**

The House and Senate Retirement Committees will jointly study alternative funding mechanisms for cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for retired members of the state retirement systems and report the findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature.

**Final Status – Adopted/Passed**

**Oppose**

**SB 2 by Senator Guillory (Duplicate of HB 5 by Representative Pearson)**

Authorizes the House and Senate Retirement Committee Chairmen to designate legislative staff to attend any executive session of any board or committee meeting of any state or statewide retirement system.

**Final Status – Act 224- Effective May 22, 2012**

**Support**

**SB 13 by Senator Guillory**

Changes the LASERS actuarial funding method from projected unit credit to entry age normal.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**Support**

**SB 16 by Senator Cortez**

Increases the number of educational hours for board trustees of fourteen retirement systems. Allows members of the Optional Retirement Plan to regain membership in the defined benefit plan.

**Final Status – Act 718 – Effective August 31, 2012**

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<b>RSEA Position</b>	<b>Bill Description</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>SB 17 by Senator Peacock (constitutional amendment)</b> Authorizes the legislature to establish a defined contribution plan for members of state retirement systems hired on or after January 1, 2013 in which case the present constitution's guarantee of benefits shall not apply. <b>Final Status – Did Not Pass</b>
<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>SB 23 by Senator Guillory (RSEA Sponsored Bill)</b> Provides that 50% of the prior year's net investment experience gain shall be applied to the experience account. Permanent benefit increases may be paid by the system even if the system fails to exceed the system's actuarial rate of return and the system is less than 80% funded. <b>Final Status – Did Not Pass</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>SB 25 by Senator Guillory</b> Provides for a 2% employee contribution for LASERS members beginning January 1, 2013 to fund permanent benefit increases. <b>Final Status – Did Not Pass</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>SB 26 by Senator Peacock (companion bill to SB 17)</b> Provides for a defined contribution plan for non-hazardous duty employees who are first employed or reemployed on or after January 1, 2013. <b>Final Status – Did Not Pass</b>
<b>No Position</b>	<b>SB 27 by Senator Cortez</b> Relative to LASERS, provides for technical changes to retirement statutes. <b>Final Status – Did Not Pass</b>
<b>Support</b>	<b>SB 33 by Senator Guillory</b> Provides that employers shall continue to make employer contributions on employees in DROP. <b>Final Status – Withdrawn</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>SB 39 by Senator Alario</b> Adds employees of the Lafitte Area Independent Levee District to the membership of LASERS. <b>Final Status – Act 346 – Effective July 1, 2012</b>

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**RSEA**

**Position**  
**SUPPORT**

**Bill Description**

**SB 41 by Senator Guillory (RSEA Sponsored Bill)**

Provides for a one-time supplement for retirees with 30 or more years of service credit who are at least age 75, have been retired for 20 years or more and did not participate in DROP or IBO.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**Oppose**

**SB 42 by Senator Cortez**

Provides for changing from 36 months to a 60 month final average compensation and applies a 15% amity-spiking rule for members of LASERS and TRSL.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**OPPOSE**

**SB 47 by Senator Guillory (Duplicate of HB 55 by Representative Pearson)**

Relative to LASERS and TRSL; changes from a three-year to a five-year Final Average Compensation (FAC) for state employees and higher education employees. Exempts all members of LASERS who are in “hazardous duty” jobs.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**Neutral**

**SB 48 by Senator Guillory (Duplicate of HB 54 by Representative Pearson)**

Adds the Commissioner of Administration or his designee to the boards of LASERS and TRSL and La. School Employees Retirement System (LSERS).

**Final Status – Act 113 – Effective June 30, 2012**

**OPPOSE**

**SB 52 by Senator Guillory (Duplicate of HB 56 by Representative Pearson)**

Increases the employee contribution rates for all non-hazardous duty LASERS members and higher education members of TRSL by 2%.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

**OPPOSE**

**SB 53 by Senator Guillory (Duplicate of HB 61 by Representative Pearson)**

Creates a cash balance retirement plan for non-hazardous duty members of LASERS and higher education members of TRSL who are hired on or after July 1, 2013.

**Final Status – Did Not Pass**

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<b>RSEA Position Support</b>	<b>Bill Description</b>
	<b>SB 54 by Senator Guillory (LASERS Sponsored Bill)</b> Proposed law changes the LASERS valuation method from projected unit credit to entry age normal. Proposed law provides that the LASERS employer contribution rate shall be the rate determined pursuant to present law plus additional contributions. Provides for accumulation and application of the additional contributions to reduce the unfunded accrued liability of LASERS. <b>Final Status – Did Not Pass</b>
<b>Support</b>	<b>SB 55 by Senator Guillory (LASERS Sponsored Bill)</b> Proposed law changes the LASERS valuation method from projected unit credit to entry age normal. This decreases the required employer contribution rate to the system. Although it lowers the required contribution rate, the actual employer contribution rate will be set closer to the projected unit credit rate in an amount specified in the statute. Provides for accumulation and application of the additional contributions to reduce the unfunded accrued liability of LASERS. <b>Final Status – Did Not Pass</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>SB 727 by Senator Claitor</b> Bars former legislators from membership in LASERS. <b>Final Status – Did Not Pass</b>
<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>SB 740 by Senator Guillory</b> Requires the LASERS Experience Account be divided into two subaccounts; Hazardous Duty and Rank & File. Requires that members receive a COLA only if the system is 80% funded. <b>Final Status – Did Not Pass</b>
<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>SB 749 (substitute for SB 51 by Senator Guillory) (Duplicate of HB 53 by Representative Pearson)</b> Increases the minimum retirement eligibility of rank-and-file employees and judges elected after July 1, 2012, to the higher age of 67 or the highest retirement age provided by the Social Security Act. <b>Final Status – Did Not Pass</b>
<b>Support</b>	<b>SCR 135 by Senator Guillory</b> Designates May 31, 2012 as Retired State Employees Association Day at the Louisiana State Capitol and recognizes the Retired State Employees Association of Louisiana Hall of Fame. <b>Final Status – Adopted/Passed</b>