

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE BILL NO. 52

BY SENATOR GUILLORY

RETIREMENT SYSTEMS. Increases the employee contribution rate for certain members of state retirement systems. (7/1/12)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 11:62(5)(a), (c), and (e) and (11)(c) and to enact R.S.
3 11:62(11)(d) and 102(D), relative to certain members of the Louisiana State
4 Employees' Retirement System and certain postsecondary education members of the
5 Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana; to increase employee contribution rates;
6 and to provide for related matters.

7 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 11:62(5)(a), (c), and (e) and (11)(c) are hereby amended and
10 reenacted and R.S. 11:62(11)(d) and 102(D) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §62. Employee contribution rates established

12 Employee contributions to state and statewide public retirement systems shall
13 be paid at the following rates, except as otherwise provided by law:

14 * * *

15 (5) Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System:

16 (a) Judges, court officers, the governor, lieutenant governor, and legislators:

17 (i) **Judges and court officers whose first employment making them**

1 eligible for membership in one of the state systems occurred on or before
 2 December 31, 2010 - 11.5%.

3 (ii) Employees, other than judges and court officers in Item (i) of this
 4 Subparagraph, whose first employment making them eligible for membership in
 5 one of the state systems occurred on or before December 31, 2010—:

6 (aa) Through June 30, 2013 - 11.5%.

7 (bb) From July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014 - 12%.

8 (cc) From July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015 - 12.5%.

9 (dd) From July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016 - 13%.

10 (ee) After June 30, 2016 - 13.5%.

11 ~~(ii)~~ (iii) Employees, other than judges in Item ~~(iii)~~ (iv) of this Subparagraph,
 12 whose first employment making them eligible for membership in one of the state
 13 systems occurred on or after January 1, 2011—:

14 ~~(aa)~~ Through June 30, 2013 - 8%.

15 (bb) From July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014 - 8.5%.

16 (cc) From July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015 - 9%.

17 (dd) From July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016 - 9.5%.

18 (ee) After June 30, 2016 - 10%.

19 ~~(iii)~~ (iv) Judges holding positions specified in R.S. 11:553(1), (3) through (5),
 20 (7), and (10) through (15) whose first employment making them eligible for
 21 membership in one of the state systems occurred on or after January 1, 2011 - 13%.

22 * * *

23 (c) Clerk and sergeant at arms of the House of Representatives and secretary
 24 and sergeant at arms of the Senate:

25 (i) Employees whose first employment making them eligible for membership
 26 in one of the state systems occurred on or before December 31, 2010—:

27 (aa) Through June 30, 2013 - 9.5%.

28 (bb) From July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014 - 10%.

29 (cc) From July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015 - 10.5%.

1 (dd) From July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016 - 11%.

2 (ee) After June 30, 2016 - 11.5%.

3 (ii) Employees whose first employment making them eligible for membership
4 in one of the state systems occurred on or after January 1, 2011=;

5 (aa) Through June 30, 2013 - 8%.

6 (bb) From July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014 - 8.5%.

7 (cc) From July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015 - 9%.

8 (dd) From July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016 - 9.5%.

9 (ee) After June 30, 2016 - 10%.

10 * * *

11 (e) All others:

12 (i) Members of the optional retirement plan - 7.5%.

13 (ii) ~~Employed~~ Employees who are not members of the optional retirement
14 plan employed on or before June 30, 2006=;

15 (aa) Through June 30, 2013 - 7.5%.

16 (bb) From July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014 - 8%.

17 (cc) From July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015 - 8.5%.

18 (dd) From July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016 - 9%.

19 (ee) After June 30, 2016 - 9.5%.

20 (ii) (iii) ~~Employed~~ Employees who are not members of the optional retirement
21 plan employed on or after July 1, 2006=;

22 (aa) Through June 30, 2013 - 8%.

23 (bb) From July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014 - 8.5%.

24 (cc) From July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015 - 9%.

25 (dd) From July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016 - 9.5%.

26 (ee) After June 30, 2016 - 10%.

27 * * *

28 (11) Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana:

29 * * *

1 **(3) After the liquidation of the experience account amortization base, the**
2 **additional contributions shall continue to be applied toward the balance of the**
3 **oldest outstanding amortization base until all such bases are fully liquidated.**

4 Section 3. The Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee may adopt an
5 actuarial valuation to be utilized in the fiscal year which begins on July 1, 2013, calculated
6 in accordance with R.S. 11:102, which has been prepared on behalf of the Division of
7 Administration by a member of the American Academy of Actuaries who meets the
8 qualification requirements of the academy to issue a particular statement of actuarial
9 opinion.

10 Section 4. Because the legislature finds and declares that questions of law may be
11 raised by some persons with respect to the constitutionality of some of the provisions of this
12 Act, the public welfare requires that such questions of law be resolved with expedition prior
13 to such time as its provisions take effect in order to avoid disruption of the orderly
14 implementation of its provisions. Therefore, the legislature finds that an expedited hearing
15 schedule for actions filed relative to the constitutionality of any provision of this Act should
16 be immediately made available in order to avoid confusion by the public. Therefore, any
17 domiciliary of this state may institute an action in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court
18 seeking a declaratory judgment to determine the constitutionality of the provisions of this
19 Act. In the interest of further expediting this procedure, the Nineteenth Judicial District
20 Court, First Circuit Court of Appeal, and Louisiana Supreme Court are urged to minimize
21 all unnecessary delays in order to resolve any questions of law no later than thirty days prior
22 to the prefiling deadline for retirement legislation for the 2013 regular legislative session,
23 and the courts may suspend all applicable rules of court for this limited purpose.

24 Section 5. If a final judgment declares the provisions of this Act unconstitutional as
25 they relate to a particular group of employees, the provisions of this Act shall remain in
26 effect and applicable to employees unrelated to the judgment.

27 Section 6. The provisions of this Act and the provisions of the Acts which originated
28 as Senate Bill No. 47 and Senate Bill No. 749 of the 2012 Regular Session shall not apply
29 to any member of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana whose membership in the

1 system is based solely on employment in a public elementary or secondary school.

2 Section 7. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2012; if vetoed by the governor
3 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
4 2012, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

The original instrument and the following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Laura Gail Sullivan.

DIGEST

Guillory (SB 52)

Present law establishes the rates at which members of retirement systems contribute to their retirement plans ranging from 7.5% to 11.5%. Proposed law increases the contribution rates for members of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS) who are employed in "nonhazardous" positions and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) who are employed in higher education by 2 percentage points in four steps of 0.5% each.

Proposed law does not increase contribution rates for the following LASERS employees in hazardous duty jobs including certain public safety service employees and peace officers, wildlife agents, bridge police, members of the Hazardous Duty Services Plan. Also does not increase contributions for members of the optional retirement plan.

Proposed law specifies that the additional employee contributions resulting from proposed law shall be applied to the unfunded accrued liability (UAL) of each system, without reamortization, until all such liability is fully liquidated.

Present law provides that valuations shall be presented by the Legislative Auditor's Office and the retirement system to the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC) for consideration. Proposed law expands the agencies which may present actuarial valuations to the Committee for consideration to include the Division of Administration, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013.

Proposed law provides for an expedited hearing process if proposed law is subjected to legal challenges. Provides for severability if a court declares any provisions of proposed law to be unconstitutional as applicable to certain members of LASERS and TRSL, retaining application of proposed law to the remaining members of the system.

Effective July 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 11:62(5)(a), (c), and (e) and (11)(c); adds R.S. 11:62(11)(d) and 102(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Retirement to the original bill

1. Provides that, instead of reducing the employer contribution requirements, the additional employee contributions shall be applied to the net remaining balance of the 1988 unfunded accrued liability (UAL) without reamortization of that base until the debt is fully liquidated.
2. Includes the current governor in application of proposed law.

3. Expands the agencies which may present actuarial valuations to the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee for consideration to include the Division of Administration, for purposes of determining the employer contribution rate to be remitted for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012.
4. Provides for an expedited hearing process.

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Reduces the increased employee contribution amount from 3% of pay to 2% of pay.
2. Phases in, over four years, beginning July 1, 2013, with 0.5% increases.
3. Retains all future "savings" generated by proposed law in the system trust fund.