

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 1134

2026 Regular Session

Braud

RETIREMENT/STATE EMPS: Creates the Back-Deferred Retirement Option Program within the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System.

DIGEST

Proposed law provides for the creation of a Back-Deferred Retirement Option Plan (Back-DROP) for certain judges within the La. State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS).

Proposed law provides that only a judge who is eligible for retirement, who holds a judgeship designated to be abolished upon the retirement of the judge, who voluntarily retires earlier than the expiration of his term and who does not seek election to another judicial office may participate in the program.

Proposed law provides that the election to participate in Back-DROP is irrevocable.

Proposed law provides that participation in Back-DROP can not exceed the lesser of:

- (1) 36 months.
- (2) The number of months of service credit accrued after the member first became eligible for regular retirement.
- (3) The number of months remaining on the member's current unexpired elected term of office.

Proposed law provides that employer and employee contributions received by the retirement system during the Back-DROP period and any interest that has accrued on employer and employee contributions received during the period shall remain with the system and shall not be refunded to the member or to the employer.

Proposed law provides that the member's benefit accrual is calculated by the following conditions:

- (1) Creditable service shall not include service credit reciprocally recognized under present law (R.S. 11:142).
- (2) Accrued service at retirement shall be reduced by the Back-DROP period.
- (3) Additional employer contributions are due by the participant's employing court equal to the number of months selected during the Back-DROP period.
- (4) In addition to the monthly benefit provided under proposed law, the member shall be paid a lump-sum equal to the Back-DROP monthly benefit multiplied by the number of months selected for the Back-DROP period. Provides the participant is eligible to elect a lump-sum payment only for the months remaining on the current unexpired term.

Proposed law allows a judge who is otherwise eligible under proposed law to retire pursuant to proposed law regardless of age or years of service if the judge makes the irrevocable option to retire prior to July 1, 2027.

Proposed law requires that any cost of proposed law be funded with additional employer contributions in compliance with present constitution (Art. X, Sec. 29(F)).

Proposed law provides that, in addition to the other limitations of the program, any election to participate in Back-DROP must be made on or before June 30, 2027.

Proposed law provides that a judge whose judicial division is abolished only upon an irrevocable declaration not to seek re-election is eligible for the program if such declaration is made prior to July 1, 2026, and retirement occurs on or before December 31, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 11:557.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Retirement to the engrossed bill:

1. Requires any election to participate in Back-DROP to be made on or before June 30, 2027.
2. Provides eligibility for a judge whose division is abolished only upon an irrevocable declaration not to seek re-election if the declaration is made prior to July 1, 2026, and retirement occurs on or before December 31, 2026.