

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 17

BY SENATOR TALBOT

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS RET. Provides for the funding deposit account for cost-of-living adjustments for the Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System. (gov sig)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 11:2073, to enact R.S. 11:2145, and to repeal R.S. 11:105(A)(6), 106(A)(4), 107(A)(5), 107.1(A)(5), 242(B)(6), 243(A)(6), and 246(A)(6), relative to the Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System; to provide relative to cost-of-living increases; to provide for calculation of the amount of any increase; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 11:2073 is hereby amended and reenacted, and R.S. 11:2145 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2073. Cost-of-living increase

A. The board of trustees is authorized to use ~~interest earnings on investments of the system in excess of normal requirements, as determined by the actuary,~~ **funds in the funding deposit account** to provide ~~an annual cost of living adjustment a~~ **cost-of-living increase** payable monthly for ~~members retired at least two years, in an amount not to exceed three percent of the original benefit~~ **to retirees, beneficiaries, and survivors, if benefits have been paid on the member's or**

1 retiree's record for at least two years, subject to the limitations in this Section.

2 Such benefits shall be paid only when funds are available from this source, and
3 payments shall be made in such manner and in such amount as is determined by the
4 board of trustees, based on the funds available, and the board of trustees shall be
5 authorized to set a maximum amount of such benefits. Any cost-of-living
6 increase granted in accordance with this Section shall begin on the July first
7 following board approval.

8 B.(1) The board may grant a cost-of-living increase in any year in which
9 the system is more than one hundred percent funded.

10 (2) If the system is not more than one hundred percent funded, the board
11 may grant a cost-of-living increase if:

12 (a) The system is at least ninety percent funded and the board did not
13 grant an increase in the last fiscal year.

14 (b) The system is at least eighty percent funded and the board did not
15 grant an increase in the last two fiscal years.

16 (c) The system is at least seventy percent funded and the board did not
17 grant an increase in the last three fiscal years.

18 (3)(a) As used in this Section, the funded ratio as of any fiscal year end
19 shall be defined as the ratio of the actuarial value of assets to the level
20 percentage of payroll entry age normal actuarial accrued liability.

21 (b) For purposes of determining the system's funded ratio pursuant to
22 this Subsection, the actuarial value of assets shall be reduced by the actuarial
23 present value of the cost-of-living increase.

24 C.(1) The board may grant a cost-of-living increase of up to three
25 percent of the current benefit to all eligible retirees, beneficiaries, and survivors.

26 (2) In lieu of the form provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the
27 board may grant a cost-of-living increase that is a monthly increase of the
28 benefit of each eligible recipient in a dollar amount that is a multiple or a
29 fraction of the number of years of credited service accrued at retirement of the

1 retiree or at death of the member plus a multiple or a fraction of the number of
2 years since retirement of the retiree or since death of the member to the
3 system's fiscal year end preceding the payment of the benefit increase. The
4 selection of the multiples to be used in this calculation shall not cause the total
5 actuarial present value of this increase to exceed the actuarial present value of
6 an increase granted under Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

7 D. The board may grant a cost-of-living increase of up to two percent of
8 the current benefit to all eligible retirees, beneficiaries, and survivors who are
9 sixty-five years of age or over. This may be in addition to any other increase the
10 board may grant.

11 * * *

12 §2145. Employer contributions; funding deposit account

13 A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in any fiscal
14 year the board of trustees is authorized to:

15 (1) Require an employer contribution rate equal to the previous year's
16 employer contribution rate or a rate lower than the previous year's employer
17 contribution rate provided that the lower rate is not less than the employer
18 contribution rate calculated in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 11:103.

19 (2) Require an employer contribution rate of up to three percentage
20 points more than the rate determined under R.S. 11:103.

21 B. The funding deposit account established by Act No. 296 of the 2009
22 Regular Session of the Legislature is continued. All surplus funds collected by
23 the system in any year in which the board exercised the authority in Subsection
24 A of this Section shall be credited to the system's funding deposit account.

25 C. The funds in the account shall earn interest annually at the
26 board-approved actuarial valuation interest rate, and such interest shall be
27 credited to the account once a year.

28 D.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the board of
29 trustees may in any fiscal year direct that funds from the account be charged

1 for only the following purposes:

2 (a) To reduce the present value of future normal costs.

3 (b) To pay all or a portion of any future net direct employer
4 contributions.

5 (c) To provide for cost-of-living increases, in accordance with applicable
6 law.

7 (2) In no event shall the funds charged from the account exceed the
8 outstanding account balance.

9 (3) If the board of trustees elects to charge funds from the funding
10 deposit account pursuant to Subparagraph (1)(b) of this Subsection, the percent
11 reduction in the minimum recommended employer contribution rate otherwise
12 applicable shall be determined by dividing the interest-adjusted value of the
13 charges from the funding deposit account by the projected payroll for the fiscal
14 year for which the contribution rate is to be reduced.

15 (4) The balance in the funding deposit account shall be excluded from the
16 assets used in the calculation of the employer contribution rate in accordance
17 with the provisions of R.S. 11:103.

18 (5) For all purposes other than funding, the balance in the account shall
19 be considered assets of the system.

20 Section 2. R.S. 11:105(A)(6), 106(A)(4), 107(A)(5), 107.1(A)(5), 242(B)(6),
21 243(A)(6), and 246(A)(6) are hereby repealed.

22 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
23 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
24 by the governor, as provided in Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
25 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
26 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

SB 17 Original DIGEST Talbot
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Present law authorizes certain statewide retirement systems, including the Registrars' of Voters Employees' Retirement System (ROVERS), to grant increases in the monthly benefits, commonly called cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to retirees and other beneficiaries. Present law also establishes eligibility requirements, timing, and benefit amounts for COLAs while limiting granting authority based on the system's funding level and time elapsed since the last COLA.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law, applicable to certain statewide systems, authorizes the board of trustees of ROVERS to set employer contribution rates above the actuarially required contribution rate calculated in accordance with present law (R.S. 11:103). The board is allowed to set a rate between the current rate and the actuarially required rate. Additionally, the board may set the rate up to 3% higher than the actuarially required rate.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law, applicable to certain statewide systems including ROVERS, provides for a funding deposit account (FDA) for accumulation of the additional employer contributions collected as a result of the board setting an employer contribution rate above the actuarially required rate. Further specifies the purposes for which the money in the FDA may be used, one of which is providing COLAs.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law authorizes the ROVERS board of trustees to use excess investment earnings to provide a COLA of up to 3% of the original benefit to members who have been retired at least two years.

Proposed law makes the FDA the sole authorized funding source for COLAs by removing the authority to use excess investment earnings; applies any percentage increase to the current benefit rather than the original; clarifies that the COLA is paid to retirees, beneficiaries, and survivors; and provides that the COLA begins on July 1st following board approval.

Present law limits the authority of certain statewide system boards to grant a COLA based on funding level and date of the most recent COLA. A board may grant a COLA if the system is:

- (1) At least 90% funded and no COLA was granted in the last year.
- (2) At least 80% but less than 90% funded, and no COLA was granted in the last two years.
- (3) At least 70 % but less than 80% funded, and no COLA was granted in the last three years.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the ROVERS board to grant a COLA in any year in which the system is more than 100% funded; defines that the funded ratio as the ratio of the actuarial value of assets to the level percentage of payroll entry age normal actuarial

accrued liability; excludes the money that will fund the COLA from the determination of funded ratio under proposed law.

Present law provides that, unless the legislature or the system board specifies otherwise, a COLA shall be an increase of the monthly benefit of each recipient in the dollar amount equal to (A) the total of the number of years of credited service accrued at retirement or at death of the member or retiree plus (B) the number of years since retirement or since death of the member or retiree. Further provides that if there are not sufficient funds to fund the benefit at the rate of one dollar per year for such total number of years (A+B), then the rate shall be reduced in proportion to the amount of funds that are available to fund the COLA.

Proposed law allows the ROVERS board to grant a COLA of a dollar amount based on (A) the years of service credit and (B) the years since benefit payments began. Allows the board to use more than one dollar as the multiplier and to have different multipliers for A and B. Limits the selection of the multiples to be used in this calculation by prohibiting the total actuarial present value of an increase under proposed law from exceeding the actuarial present value of a COLA that increases each recipient's benefit by 3%.

Proposed law retains present law for other systems.

Present law, applicable to certain statewide systems including ROVERS, authorizes the board of trustees to use excess investment income to provide a supplemental COLA equal to 2% of the original benefit to all retirees and beneficiaries who are 65 years of age or older. Limits the authority to years in which the actuarial rate of return exceeds the valuation interest rate. Present law governing the FDA allows FDA money to be used to fund any COLA otherwise authorized by law.

Proposed law authorizes the ROVERS board to grant a COLA of up to 2% of the current benefit to recipients who are 65 years of age or older funded by money in the FDA. Specifies that this may, but is not required to, be in addition to any other COLA granted. Retains present law for other systems.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 11:2073; adds R.S. 11:2145; repeals R.S. 11:105(A)(6), 106(A)(4), 107(A)(5), 107.1(A)(5), 242(B)(6), 243(A)(6), and 246(A)(6))