



Retirees

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2018 REGULAR SESSION: More changes to return-to-work (RTW) law

The regular legislative session ended two weeks early so that lawmakers could immediately enter into a second special session this year with the intent to address the state's ongoing budget issues. Despite its early ending, the regular session saw consideration of several bills directly impacting TRSL, including three that affect retirees re-employed in jobs eligible for TRSL membership.

RTW changes

Act 613, formerly House Bill 13, sponsored by Rep. Gregory Miller, adds presenter of professional development training and tutor for any PreK-12 student to the list of "re-employment eligible positions" allowing retirees to return to work and continue to receive a benefit payment after the required waiting period; it also clarifies this distinction for "classroom teachers" employed in a temporary capacity to proctor tests. These positions are all subject to a 25% earnings limitation. The tutor provision in Act 613 was originally included in HB 696, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Pearson. Act 613 also added full- or part-time PreK teachers to the list of those eligible to return to work in critical shortage situations as outlined in Act 492.

Act 492, formerly House Bill 14, sponsored by Rep. Patricia Smith,

adds full-time interpreter, educational transliterator, or educator of the deaf or hard of hearing and full- or part-time PreK teachers to the list of "re-employment eligible critical shortage positions" allowing retirees to return to work without a reduction of benefits, after the required waiting period and certification of shortage by the employer.

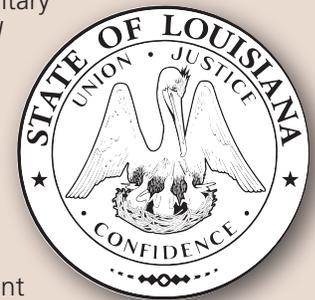
RTW retired teacher criteria

Re-employment-eligible retiree:

- Retired on or before June 30, 2010
- Retiree with an advanced degree in speech therapy, speech pathology, or audiology

Re-employment-eligible position (subject to 25% earnings limit):

- Returning to work as a substitute, PreK-12 "classroom teacher"
- Returning to work instructing adults in an adult education or literacy program administered through a public institution of elementary and secondary education (*Retiree must hold a valid Louisiana teaching certificate.*)
- Returning to work as an adjunct professor, as defined in RTW law
- Returning to work as a school nurse, as defined in R.S. 17:28
- Returning to work as a presenter of professional development training
- Returning to work as a tutor for any PreK-12 student
- Returning to work as a "classroom teacher" employed in a temporary capacity to proctor tests



Re-employment-eligible critical shortage position:

- Returning to work (full- or part-time) as a PreK-12 "classroom teacher" in a declared critical shortage area (*For full-time positions, retiree must be certified in the subject area of the critical shortage. For part-time positions, retiree must be a certified teacher.*)
- Returning to work as a full-time certified speech therapist, speech pathologist, audiologist, educational diagnostician, school social worker, school counselor, school psychologist, interpreter, educational transliterator, or educator for the deaf or hard of hearing in a school district where a shortage exists (*The position of employment must require a valid Louisiana ancillary certificate approved and issued by the Louisiana Department of Education.*)

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Other legislation that passed

- **Act 45, formerly House Bill 34** (*Rep. Pearson*) allows state and statewide retirement systems the option to allocate a portion of their investments to a terror-free fund rather than a terror-free *index* fund as previously required by law.
- **Act 347, formerly Senate Bill 4** (*Sen. Peacock*) restricts the duties of board-appointed actuaries to actuarial matters and reaffirms the ability of state and statewide retirement systems to appoint independent actuaries.
- **Act 342, formerly Senate Bill 6** (*Sen. Peacock*) prohibits a TRSL member with at least five years of TRSL service credit from retaining membership in TRSL if they move to a position covered by the Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund.
- **Act 399, formerly Senate Bill 13** (*Sen. Peacock*) removes the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC) from the state Department of Treasury and restricts chair and vice-chair duties on PRSAC to the Senate President and House Speaker or their designees.
- **Act 225, formerly Senate Bill 17** (*Sen. Peacock*) creates consistency among state and statewide retirement systems in the application of state and federal law related to military service credit purchases.
- **Senate Resolution 248** (*Sen. Morrish*) requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to explain how the minimum foundation program is calculated to ensure funding of the unfunded accrued liability.

Significant legislation that did not pass

Several bills seeking major changes to TRSL's benefit structure and investment policies did not pass. The TRSL Board of Trustees opposed this legislation.

- **House Bill 39** (*Rep. Ivey*) would have established a hybrid retirement benefit structure for members of the state retirement systems first hired on or after July 1, 2020. *NOTE: Another piece of legislation, Senate Bill 14, also sought to establish a hybrid retirement plan for state employees only. This legislation did not pass. The TRSL Board did not take a position on SB 14 because it would not have included TRSL.*
- **House Bill 23** (*Rep. Ivey*) would have restricted TRSL's investment in alternative assets to no more than 25% of the total portfolio.
- **Senate Bill 530** (*Sen. Milkovich*) would have required TRSL to reduce its investment management fees by one-half by June 30, 2025, and use the savings to reduce the unfunded accrued liability (UAL) and employer contributions to the retirement system.



For more information, visit the "Legislation" page of our website at www.TRSL.org.

Get the facts about your TRSL account from us



Sometimes, TRSL members are contacted about their retirement benefits and income by companies or organizations that are not affiliated with TRSL. Please keep the following information in mind if you are contacted about your TRSL benefits.

Important information about outside vendors:

- Outside vendors are not affiliated or associated with TRSL in any manner.
- TRSL does not endorse third-party vendors or their services and products.
- TRSL staff will never come to your home or call you unsolicited to ask for your personal information.
- TRSL does not provide any retirement information to third-party vendors.
- Individuals who rely on any information provided by third-party vendors with regard to TRSL benefits do so at their own risk.

REMEMBER: TRSL does not authorize or endorse any outside, third-party vendors to represent TRSL or provide TRSL retirement information to you.

CONTACT US... we are here for you!

If you have any questions about your TRSL retirement, please don't hesitate to contact us directly:

- **Phone:** 225-925-6446
- **Toll-free (outside Baton Rouge):** 1-877-ASK-TRSL (1-877-275-8775)
- **Email:** web.master@trsl.org



View your account information online with Member Access



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MOVING? Remember to change your address with TRSL!

If you move, please be sure to let us know your new mailing address. Often, retirees may notify their former employers about an address change, but that information is not automatically passed along to TRSL.

We still mail correspondence, such as this newsletter and election information to retirees. That's why it's important that you make the change with us by submitting a *Retiree Change of Address Authorization* (Form 15C). This form is available on our website at www.TRSL.org or you can request one:

- **EMAIL:** web.master@trsl.org
- **LOCAL PHONE:** 225-925-6446
- **TOLL FREE (outside Baton Rouge):** 877-ASK-TRSL (877-275-8775)

