

Summer 2025

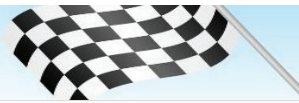
RETIREEES



Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

Vol 34 No1

2025 Legislative Roundup



The 2025 Regular Legislative Session ended June 12 with the passage of several bills that impact the retirement system, including the advancement of a constitutional amendment that you'll see on the April 18 ballot. Here's the roundup:

The most notable news for retirees may be that no changes were made to the state's return-to-work (RTW) provisions. That means the current provisions will apply if you return to the classroom this fall for a TRSL employer. See page 2 for a refresher and resources on the RTW laws.

Still, legislators did approve **Senate Study Request 1 (Sen. Price)**, which tasks the Senate Committee on Retirement with weighing possible changes to the state's current return-to-work laws that will balance retiree options, employer needs, and the financial soundness of the retirement system. Findings must be reported to the full Senate prior to the 2026 Regular Legislative Session.

Act 47 - formerly House Bill 24 (Rep. Bacala) makes a number of changes to the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP), which is an alternative retirement plan available to academic and unclassified employees of Louisiana colleges and universities. The changes include expanding ORP eligibility to technical college staff; providing a limited opportunity for some previously ineligible ORP participants to switch back to the TRSL defined benefit plan; extending the window of time for certain ORP participants to switch back to TRSL; and adding the Commissioner of Higher Education or designee to the TRSL Board of Trustees.

Act 351 - formerly House Bill 307 (Rep. Henry) requires state agencies or political subdivisions to verify the citizenship or immigration status of applicants for federal, state or local public benefits, including retirement benefits. For purposes of benefits paid by a public retirement system, the verification of an employee's U.S. citizenship or satisfactory immigration status at the time of enrollment will satisfy verification requirements. If citizenship or legal immigration status can't be verified, a report must be made to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and recurring benefits must be terminated. **(story continued on page 2)**



Constitutional Amendment:

Coming to the ballot in April

Next April voters will again be asked whether funds in three protected education trust accounts should be used to pay retirement debt as a way to create savings for employers and fund permanent teacher pay increases.

Here's how it would work:

Act 222 - formerly House Bill 473 (Rep. Emerson) - is the constitutional amendment that calls for the balance in three constitutionally protected education trust funds to be used to erase a portion of TRSL's Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL), which is retirement debt owed to TRSL. Because the state has chosen to pay down the UAL by making it part of the annual employer contribution rate, employer costs would decrease.

Act 366 - formerly House Bill 466 (Rep. Carlson) is a companion bill to House Bill 473 that directs the savings from the reduced employer contribution rate to be used to make permanent salary increases of \$2,250 for teachers and \$1,125 for school personnel beginning in the 2026-27 school year if the constitutional amendment passes.

Returning to Work: A Refresher

Feeling the need for an encore performance after officially retiring? Here's an overview of what you should know about Louisiana's return-to-work (RTW) laws.



While the 2025 legislative session did not produce any new changes to the state's RTW laws, there have been significant changes in previous years. Make sure you are familiar with these laws before deciding whether to take to the stage again. Start by answering a few essential questions:

Will I be subject to RTW laws if I go back to work?

Louisiana's RTW laws only apply to TRSL-eligible positions.

Will my retirement benefit be affected if I become reemployed in a position eligible for TRSL membership?

It depends on which provision in the RTW law is applicable to your reemployment. The law establishes specific criteria that must be met in order for a retiree to continue receiving full benefits upon returning to work. These criteria include, but are not limited to, your date of retirement and the position in which you are reemployed. Some benefits are subject to suspension or reduction if applicable criteria are not met.

What is a waiting period?

The RTW law includes a mandatory 12-month waiting period for all reemployed retirees which begins on the date of retirement. Retirees who return to work before the lapse of the 12-month waiting period will have their benefits suspended for the duration of reemployment or until the waiting period is complete, whichever occurs first.

It's important to know how reemployment may impact your retirement benefit. For more resources, including answers to frequently asked questions, visit: www.TRSL.org/RTW



2025 Legislative Roundup

Bills that did not pass

(cont'd from page 1)

- **Senate Bill 7 (Sen. Hodges)** would have imposed new requirements and restrictions on companies that contract with Louisiana's state and statewide retirement systems to manage the systems' assets or provide proxy voting services.
- **House Bill 20 (Rep. Pat Moore)** would have increased the earnings limit from 25% to 50% of a retiree's final average compensation (FAC), for those retirees who retired on/after July 1, 2020, and select no benefit suspension when returning to work.

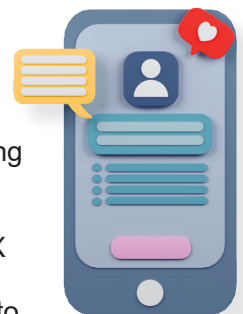
LET'S GET SOCIAL

A great way to stay current on everything that's happening at TRSL is to connect with us on social media. Follow us @TRSLonline on Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube for important messages. We'll let you know when 1099-Rs post to your Member Access account, keep you informed about board elections, give you a heads up when your benefit payment date falls on a holiday, and share some witty wisdom. Let's get social!

"Retire from work, but not from life."

—M.K. Soni

@TRSLonline





Retirees: Mark your calendars!

An election will be held this fall for one of the two seats on the TRSL Board of Trustees held by a retiree who represents all retired members in our system. This is your opportunity to help choose who will represent you on the Board.

2025 TRSL BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION - RETIREE CANDIDATES:



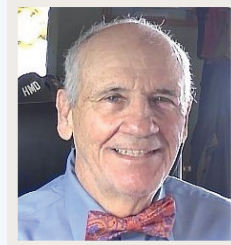
Juanita Marshall Hall
Carencro



Clyde F. Hamner
Houma



George S. Thompson
Baton Rouge



Irvin R. West, Ed.S.
Hammond

Ballots with candidate biographies and statements will be mailed to members on **August 8**. You can vote by phone, online, or mail. The voting deadline is 4:30 pm, **September 9**. If you don't receive your voting packet by **August 16**, contact us at 225-925-7798 or by emailing us at web.master@trsl.org.

For additional information on the 2025 TRSL Board of Trustees election visit [TRSL.org/elections](https://trsl.org/elections).

Social Security Update

By now, you've probably heard that Congress repealed the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). These provisions reduced the Social Security benefits many TRSL members were eligible to receive through their spouse's or their own covered employment. WEP and GPO did not impact your TRSL retirement benefit.

The Social Security Administration began making retroactive payments and monthly benefit adjustments in February.

As of June 2025, SSA had issued 79,779 retroactive payments totaling \$669 million to Louisiana residents.

If you think you're entitled to a Social Security benefit but never applied for one, you can apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply or call 1-800-772-1213 Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm CST.

NOTE: Only the Social Security Administration can answer questions about your Social Security benefits.



Check out our YouTube channel for a detailed webinar with a Social Security Administration representative. Visit youtube.com/trslonline and look for the "Retiree Essentials" playlist.

CONTACT US:

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PO Box 94123
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9123

Telephone: 225-925-6446

**Toll Free (outside the
Baton Rouge area):**

1-877-ASK-TRSL (1-877-275-8775)

**Deaf and hard of hearing members can
contact TRSL via the La. Relay Services:**

TTY/TDD users: 1-800-846-5277

Voice users: 1-800-947-5277

Fax: 225-925-4779

Submit inquiries online:

www.AskTRSL.org

Website: www.TRSL.org

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Happy future 100th birthday to you!

DID YOU KNOW...

You will never outlive your TRSL retirement benefit.

Because TRSL is a defined benefit plan, it is paid to you for life. In fact, there are currently 88 retired members who are 100 or older and still collecting their retirement benefit. You can take comfort in knowing that your TRSL benefit will always be there for you.