



TO: Participating Employers

FROM: Maris E. LeBlanc, Executive Director *met*

DATE: July 9, 2024 (corrected 1/8/26)

RE: 2024 Legislative Summary

Several pieces of legislation impacting MERS were passed during the Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature that ended on June 3, 2024.

Senate Bill 1 by Senator Edward J. Price, the Chair of the Senate Retirement Committee, is now **Act 46**, effective June 30, 2024. This bill was requested by the various public retirement systems. The legislation clarifies that when a person transfers from one retirement system to another, the amount of employer contributions that should be transferred is only the amount of those contributions that were actuarially required. Actuaries for the systems noted that because some systems, including MERS, set the employer contribution rate at an amount higher than the required rate for funding reasons, only the required amount should be sent to another system in a transfer.

Senate Bill 2 by Senator Price now **Act 28**, effective June 30, 2024, was filed at the request of MERS. It provides that candidates for the elected official trustee positions on the MERS Board of Trustees must have four years of service credit, in place of the current six years. The MERS Board sought the legislation to make the service credit requirement consistent with the term of office for mayors and to broaden the potential pool of candidates.

In 2020, legislation was passed so that future hires in the Lafayette Consolidated Government would be enrolled in the Parochial Employees' Retirement System (PERS), rather than MERS. The liability created by this change is assessed against Lafayette and required to be paid in 10 years. Senator Gerald Boudreaux's **Senate Bill 478** is now **Act 360**, effective August 1, 2024, and changes the time period for repayment from 10 to 20 years.

The earnings limit rules for some part-time rehired retirees are changed by Representative Brian Glorioso's **House Bill 744**, now **Act 634**, effective August 1, 2024. There will be no earnings limit and no impact on benefits if a retiree is at least age 60, retired with at least 30 years of creditable service, and is working for less than 35 hours a week. This exception is set to expire on June 30, 2028.

House Concurrent Resolution 20, by Representative Mike Johnson, urges and requests Congress to reform or repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset (WEP/GPO). These federal laws reduce Social Security benefits for a person who receives a public pension, like the one provided by MERS. Only Congress can change the impact of these offsets.