

Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System
Minutes of the Legislative Committee Meeting
March 13, 2026

The Legislative Committee of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System met on Friday, March 13, 2026, at the System's office at 7722 Office Park Boulevard in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco (Chair) at 9:16 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present

Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, Chairman
Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson (remote)
Lt. (Retired) Chad King (remote)
Chief (Retired) Beth Westlake (remote)

Members Absent

Chief Edwin Bergeron, Jr.
Major Raymond Burkart, Jr.

Others Present

Mr. Julius Roberson, State Treasurer's Designee (remote)
Chief Christopher Wilrye, MPERS Board member (remote)
Mr. Benjamin Huxen II, MPERS, Executive Director and General Counsel
Ms. Taylor Camp, MPERS, Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Melissa Frazier, MPERS, Benefits Administrator
Ms. Emily Thurston, MPERS, System Analyst
Ms. Sheri Morris, Daigle, Fisse, & Kessenich, Attorney
Ms. Laura Gail Sullivan, Attorney
Mr. Gregory Curran, Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd., Actuary (remote)
Mr. Tyler Brannan, Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd., Asst. Actuary (remote)
Mr. Joey David, LA House of Representatives, Legislative Analyst (remote)
Mr. Kenneth Herbold, LLA, Director of Actuarial Services (remote)
Ms. Gweneth O'Neill, City of New Orleans (remote)
Ms. Christie Ziadeh, MPERS, Benefits Analyst (remote)
Ms. Erin Estilette, Curran Actuarial Consulting (remote)

III. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of the January 28, 2026, Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

Motion by Chief (Retired) Beth Westlake, seconded by Lt. (Retired) Chad King to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2026, meeting. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V. New Business

A. Review and Recommendation on Legislation Affecting MPERS for the 2026 Regular Legislative Session, Including Prefiled Bills, Proposed Amendments, and Potential Additional Legislation (Action Item)

The Committee reviewed House Bill 26 by Representative Freeman which would amend the partial dissolution statute. The bill would revise the definition of partial dissolution by increasing the threshold for any employer from a decrease of 50 participating employees to 100.

Ms. Sullivan suggested that the Committee recommend that the Board take no position on any provision that would make changes to the partial dissolution statutes. Ms. Sullivan stated that since MPERS will be made whole through employer contributions regardless of the dissolution statutes, the Board does not need to take a position as it would be up to the employer groups to decide whether or not the proposed changes should be incorporated into the plan provisions.

Motion by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson, seconded by Chief (Retired) Beth Westlake to take no position on House Bill 26 in its original form. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee then discussed House Bill 40 by Representative Butler, which would provide that if a participating employer is deemed to have partially dissolved after a transfer of employees to another participating employer, the system shall determine whether the partial dissolution would have occurred without the transfer. If not, and the employees remain in the system, the employer is not required to make the payments required by present law. If the partial dissolution would have occurred regardless of the transfer, and the employees remain in the system, the amount due is calculated without regard to the transferred employees.

Mr. Huxen stated that he recommended taking no position other than that MPERS is not in favor of anything that forgives any debt that has come due before June 30, 2026. He also stated there are some issues with the language in the bill, but if the Board takes no position, those issues need not be addressed at this time.

Motion by Lt. (Retired) Chad King, seconded by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson to take no position on House Bill 40 in its original form. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee moved on to the partial dissolution provisions of HB 49 by Representative Bacala, for which MPERS had provided input. Ms. Sullivan stated that there were some provisions that were not fully evaluated because the bill was still being revised through pre-filing. Mr. Curran and his staff are helping MPERS determine that the wording is correct and more employer friendly. Ms. Sullivan went on to explain that instead of looking back at one year, June thirtieth to June thirtieth, if there was a spike, it would allow for a look back at what the trends have been over the last few years by doing some averaging. It would also align MPERS's statute with FRS, and staff and the LMA are in agreement with the bill. Ms. Sullivan recommended the Committee vote to take no position on in its original form. Mr. Curran then explained that MPERS needed some protection in this bill and gave some examples. He stated that with approval, he and his staff would continue to work with Ms. Sullivan to make sure that if the bill moves forward the amendments would work.

Motion by Chief (Retired) Beth Westlake, seconded by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson to take no position on the partial dissolution provisions of HB 49 in its original form, and to authorize Mr. Huxen, Mr. Curran, and Ms. Sullivan to continue developing estimates regarding the effects of proposed provisions. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

HB 30 by Representative Bacala was discussed next. This bill addresses mandatory education to be provided by the Board at no cost to municipalities. Mr. Huxen stated that HB 431 also addresses education, as well as a number of legal issues. This bill does not include the word "retirement," and Mr. Huxen stated that the author might be amenable to adding it. He stated that just adding this language would resolve the issue and eliminate the need for HB 30. Mr. Huxen and Ms. Sullivan agreed that the proposal should first be presented to the LMA.

Motion by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson, seconded by Chief (Retired) Beth Westlake, not to move forward with HB 30, contingent on the LMA and the author of HB 431 agreeing to include mandatory retirement system training for mayors in HB 431. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee then discussed all the non-partial dissolution provisions of HB 49 by Representative Bacala. Ms. Sullivan stated that this bill is intended to ensure that all police officers are covered by the public safety provisions the plan was designed to provide. She stated this has been a challenge because there is a law that allows certain employees to opt out of MPERS. The opt-out provision requires initial enrollment, followed by submission of an affidavit by

Motion by Lt. (Retired) Chad King, seconded by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson to resume open session. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Chief (Retired) Beth Westlake, seconded by Lt. (Retired) Chad King, to call another meeting of the Legislative Committee on Friday, March 20, 2026. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. (Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson experienced technical difficulties at this time but later indicated his vote was yes.)

VI. Other Business

Chief Christopher Wilrye asked about positions regarding HB 8 and HB 21. Ms. Sullivan gave a brief update on each. He then asked for Mr. Huxen to give him his statement for the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police on these bills providing an update on the positions MPERS had taken. He then asked about SB 15 and SB 16. Ms. Sullivan reviewed them and stated that SB 15 was withdrawn, and SB 16 came out of Senate Committee favorably and could leave the Senate as early as Monday.


VII. Adjourn

Motion by Chief (Retired) Beth Westlake, seconded by Lt. (Retired) Chad King, to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 a.m. Without objection, the motion carried.

The next meeting date is March 20, 2026.

To the best of my knowledge, these minutes accurately reflect the actions taken at the March 13, 2026, meeting.


Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco
Legislative Committee Chairman


Ben Huxen,
Executive Director and General Counsel