



2017 Legislative session update

Gov. John Bel Edwards signed into law two return-to-work (RTW) bills that add school nurses and school psychologists to the retired teacher criteria in the state's RTW law. Additionally, a 36-month waiting period was established for certain retired teachers (See chart to the right). The following RTW laws go into effect July 1, 2017:

House Bill 4 (now Act 15), sponsored by Rep. Blake Miguez, adds school nurses, as defined in R.S. 17:28, to the list of "re-employment eligible positions" that allow retirees to return to work and continue to receive a benefit check (after the required waiting period), subject to a 25% of annual benefit earnings limitation.

House Bill 31 (now Act 120), sponsored by Rep. Frank Hoffmann, adds school psychologists to the list of critical shortage positions in which a retiree can return to work without a reduction of benefits (after the required waiting period).

Additionally, retirees who retire on or after July 1, 2017, and whose retirement benefit was actuarially reduced or was calculated at an accrual rate lower than 2.5% will be subject to a 36-month waiting period before returning to work. The new waiting period does not apply to individuals who retired before July 1, 2017, or retirees with advanced degrees in speech therapy, speech pathology, or audiology. Re-employment within the

applicable waiting period will result in the suspension of TRSL benefits until completion of the waiting period or the end of re-employment, whichever occurs first. Refer to the chart below for information on the applicable waiting period.

RTW: Required waiting period

12 months	Individuals who retired before July 1, 2017
	Individuals who retired on or after July 1, 2017 and have advanced degrees in speech therapy, speech pathology, or audiology
	Individuals who retired on or after July 1, 2017, and whose retirement benefit was not actuarially reduced or was not calculated at an accrual rate of less than 2.5%
36 months	Individuals who retired on or after July 1, 2017, and whose retirement benefit was actuarially reduced or was calculated at an accrual rate of less than 2.5%

Other legislation

In 2017, the Louisiana legislature held two special sessions focusing on the state's budgetary and fiscal matters. There were no retirement-related bills filed during either of the special sessions. However, during the Regular Session, TRSL monitored 11 pieces

continued on page 2

Are you...

Updating your address?
Changing banks?
Refunding RTW contributions?

Find the forms you need at www.TRSL.org



2017 Legislative session update

continued from front

of legislation directly impacting the system. In addition to the RTW bills, the following legislation gained final passage.

- **Act 285, formerly Senate Bill 8** (*Sen. Peacock*) allows for the correction of enrollment errors for persons enrolled in incorrect public retirement systems.
- **Act 366, formerly House Bill 33** (*Rep. Pearson*) clarifies the legislative staff's rights and duties in attending executive sessions of the state and statewide retirement system boards, particularly with respect to lawyer-client privilege. This legislation also prohibits any person found in violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics for actions involving the misuse of public funds from serving as a trustee on a state or statewide retirement system board for elections or appointments made on or after July 1, 2017.
- **Senate Resolution 123** (*Sen. Milkovich*) requests that state systems post certain investment reports to their official websites.
- **Senate Concurrent Resolution 22** (*Sen. Mizell*) asks Congress to consider eliminating the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) Social Security benefit reductions.

For more information on the 2017 legislative sessions, visit the "Legislation" page at www.TRSL.org.

The "ABCs" of retirement

Whether you are days, months, or years into retirement, there's lots to do in this phase of your life. While you still have personal and financial responsibilities, retirement is a time to do what you love or try new experiences. Here are just a few ways to keep your mind and body active in retirement.

NOTE: References to particular vendors, products, or services is not intended as an endorsement by TRSL.

Active

SilverSneakers is a fitness program for "boomers and beyond" provided at no cost by more than 60 health plans. SilverSneakers includes:

- Unlimited access to 13,000 gyms nationwide
- Fitness classes for all abilities led by certified instructors at gyms and other locations
- Community of supportive, motivational members

Check your eligibility by visiting www.silversneakers.com.

Beneficent

Senior Corps is a way for those 55 and older to use their skills and knowledge as volunteers to make a difference in their communities as:

- Foster Grandparents
- Senior Companions
- RSVP: Lead With Experience

Learn more about Senior Corps by visiting www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps. You can find additional volunteer opportunities through the Volunteer Louisiana Commission at www.volunteerlouisiana.gov.

RETIREE FAQ:



Who can I talk to about my health insurance?

As a service to our retired members, TRSL offers certain insurance premium deductions from your monthly retirement benefit. However, you should contact your former employer, insurance carrier, or the state Office of Group Benefits (OGB) for answers to questions about the following topics:

- Insurance coverage
- Insurance benefits
- Insurance premiums
- Changes in insurance deductions

Please note, TRSL processes benefit payroll deductions only after the employer/insurance carrier has provided TRSL with the necessary premium information.

Connected

Joining a professional association is a great way to meet fellow retired teachers and access membership benefits. A few associations include:

- Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (LRTA): www.lrta.net
- Louisiana Federation of Teachers (LFT): la.aft.org
- Louisiana Association of Educators (LAE): www.lae.org
- Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (A+PEL): www.apeleducators.org

View your benefit information from anywhere...

Shed some **LIGHT** on your **RETIREMENT...**



...with secure, online Member Access

Register at www.TRSL.org/memberaccess

Other ways to stay in touch

eNews



Retiree eNews

Receive email updates!

To subscribe, visit our website at
www.TRSL.org or email
web.master@trsl.org

Social Media



Like us on Facebook!

[Facebook.com/TRSLOnline](https://www.facebook.com/TRSLOnline)



Follow us on Twitter!

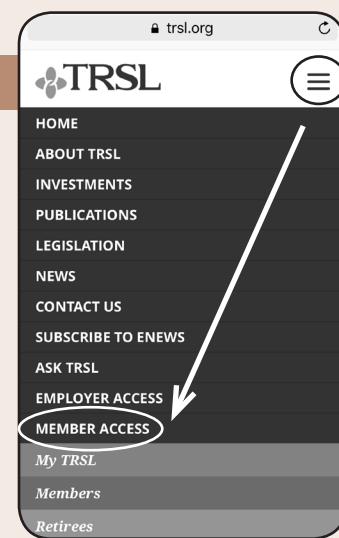
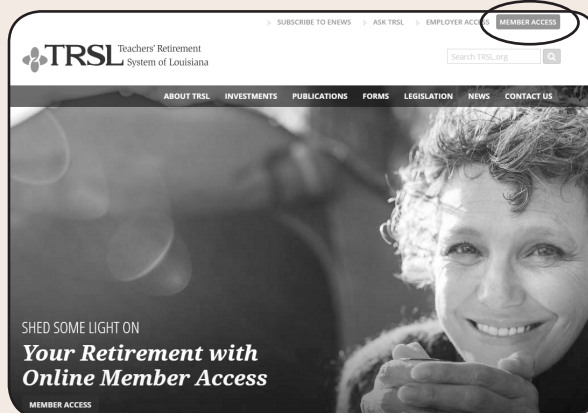
@TRSLonline

Why sign up for Member Access?

- Get convenient and secure access to your TRSL retirement information
- View your benefit payment history
- View and print your 1099-R tax forms
- Change your federal income tax withholding information
- Receive important TRSL communications, including Board of Trustees elections and voting information

How to register for Member Access

From your desktop



From your tablet or smartphone

Need assistance registering or logging into Member Access?
Contact TRSL's Help Desk at (225) 925-6460 or support@trsl.org.

CONTACT US:

Physical address:

8401 United Plaza Blvd, Ste 300
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-7017

Mailing address:

PO Box 94123
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9123

Telephone: 225-925-6446

**Toll free
(outside Baton Rouge area):**

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

TTY/TDD users:

1-800-846-5277

Fax: 225-925-4779

Email: web.master@trsl.org

Website: www.TRSL.org

 **Teachers' Retirement
System of Louisiana**
P.O. Box 94123
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9123

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage PAID
Baton Rouge, LA
Permit No. 1716

This public document was published at a cost of \$10,608.09. 78,354 copies of this document were published by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, Post Office Box 94123, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9123, to inform TRSL members of news, laws, and policies that affect them. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

CONSUMER ALERT: Get the facts about your account from us!

Don't be fooled! TRSL does not authorize or endorse any outside third-party vendors to represent TRSL or provide TRSL retirement information to you. TRSL strongly encourages you to contact us for accurate answers to your questions.

If a private company claims to have information about your TRSL retirement, keep in mind that ONLY TRSL can verify the facts about your account.

Points you should remember:

- TRSL does not sell or endorse any financial or retirement products.
- TRSL does not authorize any third-party vendors to represent TRSL or provide TRSL retirement information to you.
- TRSL staff will never come to your home or call you unsolicited to ask for your personal information.

If you have any questions about your TRSL retirement, don't hesitate to contact us directly at **225-925-6446**, toll free (outside of Baton Rouge) at **877-275-8775**, or **web.master@trsl.org**.