

TO ALL LOUISIANA CITIZENS

Special Attention to Louisiana State Police Retirees

Attached is an open letter to the Louisiana State Police Retirement System Board regarding SB294. This letter was composed and approved by a group of over thirty (30) Retirees. Also below is a list of Board Members and email addresses so that you may express personally to them your outrage that shady political deals trumps Fairness and Integrity.

SB294 was originally a bill dealing with Investigation Standards in Law Enforcement, more specifically guidelines for dealing with complaints on officers. It was sent to Conference Committee on the next to last day of the 2014 Legislative Session. The next day, when it came out of Conference Committee, a stealth amendment had been added that provided a large increase (reported from \$30,000 to \$55,000 additional per year) in the Retirement benefit of State Police Colonel Mike Edmonson. This was accomplished by allowing him to revoke his previously irrevocable decision to enter DROP. This permits him to retire at his current salary of \$135,000.00 per year and reportedly collect three years of his current salary upon his retirement.

While the circumstances surrounding the submission and passage of the bill are concerning and somewhat a mystery, what is clear is that **the bill is funded from the same funds that provide for Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) to State Police Retirees, Surviving Spouses, and Children.**

State Treasurer John Kennedy, a member of the Retirement Board additionally has warned that this Legislation potentially jeopardizes the State's Bond Rating. The amendment and subsequent law was passed in violation of The State Constitution, Article X, Section 29 which specifies Retirement Legislation has to be advertised before the session, which it wasn't. The amendment dealing with another matter altogether subjects it to additional Constitutional challenge. Kennedy has called for an investigation and the Retirement Board has hired an outside attorney to review and make recommendations to the Board. **The Board is preparing to meet on this, but indications are that they won't take any action.**

Please let the Board Members know how you feel about this unconstitutional attack on the State Police Retirement System. Also, please call or share with your Legislators, those on your email lists and through Social Media such as Facebook so we may all let the Board Members know we won't accept this. They need to hear not only from Retirees who will be adversely affected by this, but also by all citizens, who will bear the cost and suffer the negative effects from possible weakening of the Credit Rating of the State. It is important to encourage as many people as possible to contact them to let them know you are watching and expect them to defend the system and members. The State Police Retirees and the People of Louisiana deserve better.

For more information, you may Google search "Senate Bill 294 Edmonson" or go to these sites:

www.louisianavoice.com

www.forgotston.com

http://www.auctioneer-la.org/Kennedy_LSP.htm

<http://www.fox8live.com/story/26142799/kennedy-demands-sprb-investigation-of>

If you'd like to correspond with us, we are at lsp_retirees@cox.net. If you prefer, your communications with us will remain anonymous.

LSPRS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Irwin Felps: ifelps@lsprs.org **Executive Director**

Frank Besson: frank.besson@dps.la.gov **Chairman**

Kevin Marcel: kevin.marcel@dps.la.gov **Vice Chairman**

Shirley Bourg: No email available

Mike Edmonson: mike.edmonson@dps.la.gov **Designee:** Charlie Dupuy: charlie.dupuy@dps.la.gov

Elbert Guillory: guillorye@legis.la.gov

John Kennedy: jkennedy@treasury.state.la.us **Designee:** Amy Mathews: AMathews@treasury.state.la.us

Stephen Lafargue: slafargue1214@gmail.com

Kristy Nichols: kristy.nichols@la.gov **Designee:** Andrea Hubbard: andrea.hubbard@la.gov

Thurman Miller: thurman.miller@.la.gov

Kevin Pearson: pearsonk@legis.la.gov

Bobby Smith: bobby.smith@dps.la.gov