

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 25

BY REPRESENTATIVE SPELL

RETIREMENT/TEACHERS: Provides relative to the payment of benefits for the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 11:784(A) and (C)(2), relative to the Teachers' Retirement  
3 System of Louisiana; to provide relative to compliance with amendments to the  
4 Internal Revenue Code; to provide relative to the commencement of benefit  
5 payments; to provide relative to certain elections by a surviving spouse; to provide  
6 for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

7 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
8 as provided by Article X, Section 29(C) of the Constitution  
9 of Louisiana.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 11:784(A) and (C)(2) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
12 follows:

13 §784. Payment of benefits

14 A. The retirement system shall pay all benefits in accordance with a good  
15 faith interpretation of the requirements of Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue  
16 Code and related federal regulations, as applicable to a governmental plan within the  
17 meaning of Section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code. The payment of benefits  
18 to or on behalf of a member shall commence not later than April first following the  
19 calendar year in which the member retires, or ~~attains age seventy and one-half years~~  
20 the member's required beginning date, whichever is later. For the purposes of this  
21 Section, "required beginning date" shall have the meaning set forth in Section  
22 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code.

23 \* \* \*

1 C.

2 \* \* \*

3 (2) Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not apply to any portion of a  
4 member's benefit which is payable to or for the benefit of a designated beneficiary  
5 or beneficiaries, over the life of or over the life expectancy of such beneficiary, so  
6 long as such distributions begin not later than December thirty-first of the calendar  
7 year immediately following the calendar year of the member's death, or, in the case  
8 of the member's surviving spouse, December thirty-first of the calendar year in  
9 which the member would have ~~attained the age of seventy and one-half years~~  
10 reached his required beginning date, or April first following the calendar year in  
11 which the surviving spouse reaches the spouse's required beginning date if the  
12 surviving spouse submits to the retirement system at least thirty days prior to any  
13 required distributions, or the deadline provided by federal law or regulation, an  
14 acceptable election, as provided by the system, to be treated as a member for this  
15 purpose. If the designated beneficiary is the member's surviving spouse and if the  
16 surviving spouse dies before the distribution of benefits commences, then  
17 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be applied as if the surviving spouse were the  
18 member. If the designated beneficiary is a child of the member, for purposes of  
19 satisfying the requirement of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, any amount paid to  
20 such child shall be treated as if paid to the member's surviving spouse if such amount  
21 would become payable to such surviving spouse, if alive, upon the child's reaching  
22 age eighteen or, if later, upon the child's completing a designated event. For  
23 purposes of the preceding sentence, a designated event shall be the later of the date  
24 the child no longer has a disability or the date the child ceases to be a full-time  
25 student, or attains age twenty-three, if earlier.

26 \* \* \*

27 Section 2. The cost of this Act, if any, shall be funded with additional employer  
28 contributions in compliance with Article X, Section 29(F) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

29 Section 3. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 25 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Spell

**Abstract:** Provides relative to tax qualification for the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Present law requires the system to pay all benefits in accordance with a good faith interpretation of present federal law.

Proposed law retains present law and adds related federal regulations.

Present law requires the payment of benefits to commence not later than April first following the calendar year in which the member retired or the member attains age 70½ years, whichever is later.

Proposed law requires payment of benefits to commence not later than the member's required beginning date, based on present federal law, or April first following the year in which the member retires, whichever is later.

Present law provides that if a member dies before he has received his benefit, the interest is distributed over five years after the member's death to the member's beneficiary. Provides that present law does not apply to any portion of the member's benefit or the benefit of a designated beneficiary so long as distributions begin not later than Dec. 31st of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year of the member's death or in the case of the member's spouse, Dec. 31st of the calendar year in which the member would have attained age 72½.

Proposed law provides that in the case of a surviving spouse, distributions must begin not later than Dec. 31st of the calendar year in which the member would have reached his required beginning date, or the April first following the calendar year in which the surviving spouse reaches the spouse's required beginning date if the surviving spouse submits an election to the system at least 30 days prior to any distributions or the deadline provided by federal law.

Proposed law requires that any cost of proposed law be funded with additional employer contributions in compliance with present constitution (Art. X, Sec. 29(F)).

Effective July 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 11:784(A) and (C)(2))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Retirement to the original bill:

1. Change the effective date from July 1, 2027, to July 1, 2026.