

ACT No. 24

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 25

BY REPRESENTATIVE SPELL

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AN ACT

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

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

§784. Payment of benefits

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

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C.

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

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

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____