

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2016 First Extraordinary Session  
February 23, 2016

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. in Room 5, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman  
Representative Mark Abraham  
Representative Beryl A. Amedée  
Representative James K. Armes, III  
Representative Tony Bacala  
Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley  
Representative John A. Berthelot  
Representative Robert E. Billiot  
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.  
Representative Charles R. Chaney  
Representative Rick Edmonds  
Representative Franklin J. Foil, Vice Chairman  
Representative Lance Harris  
Representative Valarie Hodges  
Representative Walt Leger, III  
Representative Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative Dustin Miller  
Representative Steve E. Pylant  
Representative Jerome Richard  
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.  
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith  
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Scott M. Simon

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Penny B. Bouquet, Administrative Secretary  
Mr. Peter G. E. Conroy, Legislative Analyst  
Ms. Nancy Keaton, Legislative Analyst

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

None

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 77 by Representative Amedée**

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 77, which establishes the Payments Toward State Debt Fund as a special treasury fund.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Lance Harris offered a motion to report House Bill No. 77 favorably, to which Representative Smith objected. House Bill No. 77 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Chaney, Harris, Hodges, Miguez, Richard, Schroder, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, McFarland, Miller, and Smith voted nay.

**House Bill No. 86 by Representative Leger**

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 86, which establishes the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 86 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 86 was reported favorably by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, and Smith voted yea.

**House Bill No. 89 by Representative Stokes**

Representative Stokes and Mr. Darryl Purpera, Legislative Auditor, 1600 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 339-3800, presented House Bill No. 89, which provides relative to uses of monies dedicated to the Medical Assistance Programs Fraud Detection Fund.

Ms. Liz Murrill, Assistant Attorney General, and Mr. George Campagna, Chief Investigator for the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) for the Attorney General's Office, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 326-6725, and Mr. Purpera discussed, with Representative Smith, the role of MFCU within the Attorney General's Office.

Representative Stokes and Mr. Purpera discussed, with Representative Henry, Act 568 from the 2014 Regular Session.

Representative Stokes and Mr. Campagna discussed, with Representative Abraham, the federal funds match for the Attorney General's Office.

The committee postponed discussion of House Bill No. 89 to later in the meeting.

**Department of Education**

Mr. Tim Mathis, Budget Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-9101, gave an overview and discussed the FY15-16 budget for the Department of Education.

Dr. John White, Superintendent of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3617, gave an overview and discussed the department's FY15-16 budget.

Dr. White discussed, with Representative Carter and Representative Smith, funding for the LA 4 Early Childhood Program.

Dr. White discussed, with Representative Schroder, findings in the 2016 Legislative Auditor's report regarding the Recovery School District and a breakdown of the department's contracts.

Dr. White discussed, with Representative McFarland and Representative Smith, federally funded programs.

The meeting recessed at 11:40 a.m. and reconvened at 1:54 p.m., resuming discussion of House Bill No. 89 by Representative Stokes.

**House Bill No. 89 by Representative Stokes**

Mr. Jeff Reynolds, Undersecretary for the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, and Ms. Murrill discussed, with Representative Smith and Representative Billiot, the percentage of federal funds match received by DHH and the Attorney General's Office.

Representative Edmonds offered a set of amendments to delete the ability of the Legislative Auditor to utilize funds from the Medical Assistance Programs Fraud Detection Fund; to add provisions requiring DHH to reimburse the Legislative Auditor for actual expenses incurred in connection with any fiscal, performance, or investigative audit; and to make technical changes. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 89 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 89 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Sch roder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

A copy of the witness cards for individuals (who were present, but did not testify) in support of, in opposition to, and to provide information on House Bill No. 89 are available upon request.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to adjourn, to which there was no objection. The motion passed by a vote of 23 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Henry, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, Smith and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry  
House Committee on Appropriations