

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2016 First Extraordinary Session
February 24, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 10:08 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. 122 by Representative Henry**

Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 122, which provides for supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Representative Henry offered a set of technical amendments and offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Ms. Kodi Wilson, 16022 Batavia Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 279-8870; Ms. Angéla Lorio, 11850 Wentling Avenue, #A8, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 778-7765; and Ms. Karen Scallan, 3724 Ashton Drive, Destrehan, LA 70047, (985) 467-3543, representing families of children with disabilities, those on waiver services, and those on the waiting list for waiver services, provided testimony in opposition to the bill. (See Exhibits A, B, & C)

Mr. Scott Richard, Executive Director of the Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 769-3191; Mr. Donald Songi, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 37617 Seven Oaks Avenue, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 323-3921; Ms. Deborah M. Meaux, President, and Mr. Shane Riddle, Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 849-3514; Mr. Carnell Washington, Vice President of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037; and Ms. Cynthia Duet, Deputy Director of Audubon Louisiana, 5615 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 600B, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 768-0820, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Department of Education (no contact information provided), provided information and discussed the proposed FY15-16 budget reductions to the Department of Education in the bill.

Ms. Tiffany Simpson, Louisiana Public Defender Board, 301 Main Street, Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 219-9305, discussed the effects of proposed FY15-16 budget reductions to local public defenders in the bill.

Mr. Tom Schedler, Secretary of State, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-2880, addressed the committee regarding his view of the proposed FY15-16 budget reductions to his department in the bill.

Ms. Janice Lansing, Chief Financial Officer of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7308, discussed the reduction to the National Resources Trust Fund in the bill.

After discussion amongst committee members, Representative Henry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 122 with amendments, to which Representative Leger objected. House Bill No. 122 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Henry, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hodges, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Schroder, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Abraham, Armes, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Leger, Miller, Richard, and Smith voted nay.

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. 122 is available upon request.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Miller 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 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations