

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
May 23, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:42 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 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
Representative Lance Harris
Representative Bob Hensgens
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Steve E. Pylant
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative James K. Armes, III
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Jerome Richard
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**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 84 by Senator Hewitt**

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 84, which requested the Division of Administration to provide a report of all reports required of the executive branch by statute or resolution.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 84 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 84 was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 443 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 443, which provided for mandatory meetings of the Health and Social Services Estimating Conference for purposes of developing budget recommendations for the Medicaid Program.

Senator Hewitt discussed the makeup of the Health and Social Services Estimating Conference and the Medicaid Subcommittee with Representative Schroder.

Senator Hewitt and Ms. Nancy Keaton, Legislative Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-8596, discussed, with Representatives Bacala and Schroder, the roll of the subcommittee and requiring the conference to meet quarterly.

Representative Schroder offered an amendment to require that the conference meet at least quarterly to receive information from the Medicaid Subcommittee, and also offered a motion to adopt the amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney,

Edmonds, Foil, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senator Hewitt discussed the need for a sunset date for the subcommittee with Representative Amedée. She also discussed recipients of the information from the conference with Representative Smith.

Senator Hewitt discussed the need for the Medicaid Subcommittee and the general purpose of the bill with Representative Chaney.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Schroder offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 443 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 443 was reported with amendments by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 253 by Senator Peacock

Senator Peacock presented Senate Bill No. 253, which provided for a limitation relative to certain appropriations for hospitals associated with the LSU Health Sciences Center of Shreveport, the LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans, and the LSU Health Care Services Division. (See Exhibit A)

Representative Smith commented on the fact that the East Baton Rouge Parish School System is facing the same situation as the LSU Health Sciences Centers and Health Care Services Division.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative McFarland offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 253 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 253 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, 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 Senate Bill No. 253 is available upon request.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 67 by Senator Carter

Representative Gary Carter presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 67 for Senator Carter, which requested the Division of Administration to study the feasibility of contracting with the United States Department of Agriculture's National Finance Center for payroll and personnel services.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 67 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 67 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 201 by Senator Allain

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 201, a constitutional amendment to revise the circumstances that would allow the reduction of constitutionally-protected expenditures and dedications to eliminate a projected deficit in an ensuing fiscal year.

Senator Allain discussed excluding the supplemental pay for police officers and firefighters with Representative Henry, and other exclusions in the bill with Representative Schroder.

Representative Henry offered an amendment to add to the supplemental pay for police officers and firefighters to the list of exceptions, and also offered a motion to adopt the amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Miguez offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 201 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 201 was reported with amendments by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 425 by Senator Allain

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 425, which dedicated the annual assessment on an operator who chose not to plug an inactive well.

Senator Allain discussed the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund with Representatives Smith and Zeringue.

Senator Allain discussed the process to declare an oil well as inactive with Representative Amedée. He also discussed the previously adopted rule changes for inactive wells with Representative Chaney.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 425 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 425 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Foil, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, 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 Senate Bill No. 425 is available upon request.

Senate Bill No. 428 by Senator Allain

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 428, which dedicated certain funds to oilfield site-specific trust accounts in order to provide for oilfield site restoration.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 428 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 428 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Foil, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, 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 Senate Bill No. 428 is available upon request.

Senate Bill No. 177 by Senator Donahue

Representative Schroder presented Senate Bill No. 177 for Senator Donahue, which provided relative to reports on special funds in the state treasury.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Schroder offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 177 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 177 was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Foil, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 733 by Representative Abramson

Representative Foil presented House Bill No. 733 for Representative Abramson, which provided for calling a limited constitutional convention for fiscal purposes and preparations therefor.

Representative Foil offered an amendment to allow (rather than require) the Evaluation and Drafting Committee members to be paid a per diem. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Foil, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report House Bill No. 733 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 733 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Foil, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jacques Rodrigue, Executive Director of the George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts, Inc., 747 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 324-9614, presented information regarding the Louisiana A+ Schools Program, and discussed, with Representative Henry, future state funding for the program.

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 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations