

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2016-2017 Interim Session
December 7, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:16 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 Charles R. Chaney
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Franklin J. Foil
Representative Lance Harris
Representative Bob Hensgens
Representative Valarie Hodges
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 Robert E. Billiot
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Katrina R. Jackson
Representative Walt Leger, III

Representative Jerome Richard
Representative Scott M. Simon
Representative Julie Stokes

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

None

III. DISCUSSION

House Bill No. 1 by Representative Henry

The following agencies contained in House Bill No. 1 were presented and discussed:

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Mr. Blake Ruiz, Budget Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-0474, presented an overview and discussed the department's FY17-18 budget request.

Ms. Marketa Garner Walters, DCFS Secretary, 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6930, discussed the department's priorities and the need for additional funding in FY17-18. (See Exhibit A)

Ms. Terri Ricks, DCFS Deputy Secretary, 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6930, discussed federal reimbursement for Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) benefits during the August 2016 floods with Representative Edmonds.

Department of Health (LDH)

Mr. Chris Keaton, Deputy Director, and Ms. Nancy Keaton, Legislative Analyst, House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-1964, presented an overview and discussed the FY17-18 budget request for the department.

Mr. W. Jeff Reynolds, LDH Undersecretary, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225)342-6725, discussed the Fees and Self-Generated Revenue being used to draw down federal funds for certain programs with Representative Hensgens.

Ms. Michelle Alletto, LDH Deputy Secretary, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, discussed increased funding for the Office of Public Health for local health units with Representative Amedée.

Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Cindy Rives, LDH Deputy Undersecretary, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, also discussed the definition of term pay for state employees with Representative Amedée.

Dr. Rebekah Gee, LDH Secretary, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, updated the committee regarding the state of the department, and she and Ms. Alletto discussed the benefits and cost savings associated with Medicaid expansion with Representative Edmonds.

Mr. Steve Russo, LDH Executive Counsel, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, and Mr. Reynolds discussed Uncompensated Care Costs (UCC) payments and long-term managed care with Representative Hensgens. Dr. Gee also discussed the effects of repealing Medicaid expansion with Representative Hensgens.

Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Jen Steele, LDH Medicaid Director, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, discussed temporary Table of Organization (T.O.) positions to prepare for Medicaid expansion and the department's efforts to control Medicaid fraud with Representatives Bacala and Schroder.

Mr. Reynolds discussed the implementation of the "money follows the patient" model and Medical Vendor Payments, and Dr. Gee discussed licensing standards for free-standing emergency rooms with Representative Miller.

Ms. Alletto discussed the effects of Medicaid expansion on the local Human Service Districts, and Mr. Reynolds discussed budget increases in FY1-18 for the districts with Representative Schroder. Dr. Gee also discussed the department's priority list with Representative Schroder.

Dr. Larry Hollier, Chancellor of the LSU Health Science Center (LSUHSC) at New Orleans, 433 Bolivar Street, 8th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 234-8086, discussed the progress and benefits of University Medical Center in New Orleans with Representative Schroder.

Dr. Gee, Ms. Steele, and Mr. Reynolds discussed the department's supplemental payment structure with Representatives Abraham and McFarland. Dr. Gee also discussed hospital public-private partnership contract negotiations with Representative Henry.

The meeting recessed at 2:42 p.m. and reconvened at 2:49 p.m.

Health Care Services Division

Mr. Daniel Waguespack, Budget Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-7477, presented an overview and discussed the agency's FY17-18 budget request.

Mr. Chad Thompson, Chief Financial Officer of Lallie Kemp Regional Medical Center, (985) 878-1350, discussed the hospital's overhead and IT costs with Representative Amedée.

Dr. Wayne Wilbright, Chief Executive Officer of the Louisiana State University Health Care Services Division, 5429 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, (504) 568-2259, discussed a potential public-private partnership agreement for Lallie Kemp Regional Medical Center with Representative Amedée.

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Mr. Ruiz presented an overview and discussed the department's FY17-18 budget request.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, DEQ Secretary, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-3950, discussed certain budget items in the department's FY17-18 budget request and the Waste Tire Fund with Representatives Amedée.

Dr. Brown and Ms. Karyn Andrews, DEQ Undersecretary, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-3861, also discussed the benefits of Act 451 of the 2016 Regular Session, which authorized an increase in fees collected by DEQ, with Representative McFarland.

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (DWF)

Mr. Keaton presented an overview and discussed the department's FY17-18 budget request.

Mr. Charlie Melancon, DWF Secretary, and Mr. Patrick Banks, Assistant Secretary of Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-6223, discussed the funding sources of the department's tagging program used for fisheries management and the cost savings associated with reducing the program with Representatives Miguez and Zeringue.

Mr. Melancon and Mr. Bryan McClinton, DWF Undersecretary, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, discussed the federal grants used for certain state-owned properties with Representative Amedée.

Mr. McClinton discussed the department's Conservation Fund with Representative Abraham.

A copy of the 2016 audit findings for the department was distributed to committee members during the meeting, but was not discussed. (See Exhibit B)

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Mr. Chris Henry, Budget Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-1394, presented an overview and discussed the department's FY17-18 budget request.

Mr. Thomas Harris, DNR Secretary, P.O. Box 94396, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-2710, discussed the effects of budget reductions on the department.

Department of Civil Service

Mr. Chas Nichols, Budget Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-2444, presented an overview and discussed the FY17-18 budget request for the department.

Mr. Byron P. Decoteau, Jr., Director of the Department of Civil Service, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 3-280, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-8272, discussed the department's jurisdiction over entities that employ civil service functions and services provided to state agencies. He also discussed the pay structure for classified state employees and turn-over rates in state government with Representatives Bacala and McFarland.

State Police Commission

Ms. Cathy Derbonne, Executive Director of the State Police Commission, P.O. Box 66555, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 915-7104, discussed the makeup of the commission, the functions and services provided by the commission, and certain items requested in the budget with Representative Miguez.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Abraham offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations