

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2017 First Extraordinary Session
February 16, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 10:11 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 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 James K. Armes, III
Representative Scott M. Simon

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Katie Andress, Secretary
Peter G. E. Conroy, Legislative Analyst
Nancy Keaton, Legislative Analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

None

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 by Speaker Barras**

Speaker Barras presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 1, which directed the treasurer to immediately begin implementation of the process to allocate money deposited into the State Treasury from constitutional and statutory dedications that flow through the Bond Security and Redemption Fund for the purpose of paying state debt.

Speaker Barras discussed the constitutionality of House Concurrent No. 1 with Representative Leger, and discussed how previous administrations have implemented the same process with Representative Harris.

Speaker Barras explained the bill's methodology to determine the percentage of money to be used to pay state debt with Representative Amedée. He also discussed the ways in which the state generates debt with Representatives Billiot and Smith.

Commissioner Jay Dardenne, Division of Administration, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, discussed, with Representative Leger, the potential repercussions of implementing HCR No. 1, and discussed the decline of the state's bond rating with Representative Pylant.

There was no further discussion on the resolution.

Ms. Angéla Lorio, 11850 Wentling Avenue, #A8, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 778-7765, provided testimony in support of House Bill No. 1.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 favorably, to which Representative Leger objected. House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 was reported favorably by a vote of 21 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Carter and Leger 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 1 is available upon request.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 2, which provided for monies in the Budget Stabilization Fund to be available for appropriation in FY16-17.

Representative Chaney offered an amendment to increase the amount of funds used from the Budget Stabilization Fund from \$50,000,000 to \$74,645,508, and also offered a motion to adopt the amendment, to which Representative Bacala objected. The amendment was adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bagley, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Richard, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Bacala, Berthelot, Edmonds, Miguez, and Pylant voted nay.

There was no further discussion on the resolution.

Representative McFarland offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 was reported with amendments by a vote of 22 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, 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 House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 1 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 1, which created a supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations for FY16-17.

Representative Leger discussed the importance of local healthcare clinics with Representative Billiot.

Representative McFarland offered an amendment to ensure payments for waiver services and applied behavioral analysis rates will be paid out of the Medicaid budget.

Representative Leger discussed, with Representative Smith, optional services that are exempt from budget reductions that are included in the amendment.

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

Ms. Angéla Lorio, 11850 Wentling Avenue, #A8, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 778-7765, provided testimony in support of House Bill No. 1.

Representative Leger discussed the impact of mandated costs to state agencies, especially Higher Education, with Representative Henry.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1 with amendments, to which Representative Miguez objected. The motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 15 nays. Representatives Abraham, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Leger, Miller, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Henry, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Edmonds, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, and Zeringue voted nay.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no 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 Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations