

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2017 Regular Session  
April 18, 2017

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

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:19 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  
Representative Lance Harris  
Representative Bob Hensgens  
Representative Valarie Hodges  
Representative Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative Dustin Miller  
Representative Steve E. Pylant  
Representative Jerome Richard  
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.  
Representative Scott M. Simon  
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith  
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Walt Leger, III

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Ms. Faye Talbot, Sergeant at Arms  
Ms. Vivian Hurst, Sergeant at Arms

**III. DISCUSSION****Public testimony regarding the appropriations proposed in House Bill No. 1 of the 2017 Regular Session**

Representative Henry indicated that the committee would hear public testimony regarding the appropriations proposed in House Bill No. 1, schedule by schedule. (See Exhibit A)

Representative Chaney was granted a personal privilege to recognize medical students from Louisiana State University Medical School in New Orleans and Shreveport that assisted with Speaker Barras' Health Fair.

**Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism– Schedule 06**

Present to speak in opposition were Mr. Randie Haynie and Ms. Jill Kidder, Louisiana Travel Promotion Association, and Ms. Marion Fox, Louisiana Association of Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1165 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 346-1857. (See Exhibit B)

**Louisiana Department of Health– Schedule 09**

Present to speak in opposition were Ms. April Dunn, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, 626 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 272-4080; Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Kutz, 1450, Lake Pointe Avenue, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 654-3556; Mr. Michael Billings, 943 Birmingham Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70819, (225) 456-1221; Ms. Annie Cummer, 210 Longleaf Court, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, (504) 579-4706; Ms. Yakima Black, LATAN, 3042 Old Forge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 925-9300; Mr. Jimmie Smith, 11888 Old Hammond Highway, Apt. 59, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 802-6495; Mr. Andrew Mull, AARP, 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, no telephone number provided; Mr. Charles Castille, Rural Hospital Coalition, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1880, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 389-9429; Ms. Sylvia Pearson Chagnard, Jefferson Parish Regional Advisory Council, 4937 Avron Boulevard, Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 908-0027; Ms. Ashley Weiss, Early Psychosis Intervention Clinic, 4000 Bienville Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 236-5009; Ms. Jane Lefkowitz, 4000 Bienville Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504)

353-5677; and Ms. Bess Hart, Sinfonia Family Services of Louisiana, 3613 Hessmer Street, Metairie, LA 70002, (504) 810-3654. (See Exhibit C)

Present to provide information were Ms. Sandee Winchell, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, 626 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 342-6804; Mr. Joseph Pearson, The Golden Rule Care Provider, LLC, 2214 Grand Point Road, Breaux Bridge, LA 70819, (337) 332-4005; Mr. Ed Parker, AFSCME, 429 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 565-5115; Ms. Carolyn Collins, 16776 Shropshire Road, Clinton, LA, 70722, (225) 683-0726; Ms. Donna L. Collins, 4628 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 244-4557; Ms. Janice Josiah, 3736 Carl Road, Alexandria, LA 71302, (318) 442-9040; Ms. Deneice Dixon, 5405 Rosemary Drive Alexandria, LA 71303, (318) 416-7299; and Ms. Mary Dixon, 1401 Hickory Court, Alexandria, LA 71303, (318) 787-2983.

The meeting recessed at 12:12 p.m. and reconvened at 1:41 p.m.

### **Department of Education– Schedule 19**

Present to speak in opposition were Ms. Tyana Lacey, 12314 Oak Brook Drive, Geismar, LA 70734, (225) 955-2516; Ms. Kenetra Curry and Mr. Keelan Hurst, 2043 Seracedar Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 324-6048; Mr. and Mrs. Charles, 1424 Jasper Avenue, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 605-5743; Ms. Eula M. Beckwith, 11220 Fernley Drive, New Orleans, LA 70128, (504) 241-6853; Ms. Pamela Gauthier, 11850 Wentling Avenue, B-10, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 614-6610; and Ms. Arianna Craig Jolla, P.O. Box 870866, New Orleans, LA 70187, (504) 952-9561.

### **Department of Children and Family Services– Schedule 10**

Present to speak in opposition was Ms. Carmen D. Weisner, Executive Director, NASW-LA, 700 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 346-1234.

### **Louisiana Workforce Commission – Schedule 14**

Present to speak in opposition were Mr. Neil Carpenter, 198 Alello Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 241-2570; Mr. Ronnie Dowell, 1750 Claiborne Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71103, (318) 635-6471; Fr. Patrick Mascarella, 144 Highland Park Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 252-2806; Mr. Donald Banning, no contact information provided; and Ms. Gertie Bias, 105 Vinemont Drive, Lafayette, LA 70501, (337) 233-4168.

### **Other Requirements – Schedule 20**

Present to speak in support were Ms. Renee Vidrine, Lighthouse Louisiana, 123 State Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 214-1522; Ms. Pam Allen, Louisiana Center for the Blind, 101 South Trenton Street, Ruston, LA 71270, (318) 251-2891; Mr. Lynn Blanchard, Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center, 409 West St. Mary Boulevard, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 234-6492; and

Ms. Margaret McKenzie and Mr. Caleb McKenzie, 1700 Yale Avenue, Metairie, LA 70003, (504) 235-4661.

### **Special Schools and Commissions – Schedule 19**

Present to speak in opposition was Mr. Jimmy Gore, 464 East Boyd Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, no telephone number provided.

Present to provide information were Ms. Melanie Bronfin, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, 426 Atherton Drive, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 228-0988, and Mr. Keith Liederman, Kingsley House, 1600 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 523-6221. (See Exhibit D)

A copy of the witness cards for all individuals (who were present, but did not testify) in support of, in opposition to, and to provide information on House Bill No. 1 is available upon request.

### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Chaney offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 24 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry  
House Committee on Appropriations