

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2017 Regular Session  
May 8, 2017

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

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:12 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 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 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 James K. Armes, III

Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley  
Representative Blake Miguez

**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 OF LEGISLATION**

**House Bill No. 132 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 132, which provided relative to the allocation of expenditures in the state operating budget.

Representative Edmonds offered a set of amendments to allow the transfer of funds between expenditure categories of a certain amount without the approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB); required the Commissioner of Administration to report the initial allocation of the expenditure and changes to those expenditures on the Division of Administration's website; and required the Commissioner of Administration to report all transfers to JLCB.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which Representative Smith objected. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, McFarland, Richard, Schroder, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Leger, Miller, and Smith voted nay.

Representative Leger offered an amendment to change "*approval*" to "*review*". Representative Leger offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which Representative Edmonds objected. The motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas and 15 nays. Representatives Chaney, Leger, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, McFarland, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, Simon, and Zeringue voted nay.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 132 with amendments, to which Representative Leger objected. House Bill No. 132 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Edmonds, Harris, Hensgens, McFarland, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Carter, Leger, and Smith voted nay.

Present to provide information on House Bill No. 132 was Mr. Barry Dussé, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7005.

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. 132 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 397 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 397, which provided relative to the Medical Assistance Programs Fraud Detection Fund.

Representative Edmonds offered a set of amendments to provide an effective date of July 1, 2018. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Carter, Edmonds, Harris, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Leger offered a set of amendments to change the percentage of funding allocated to the Department of Health from the Medical Assistance Program's Fraud Detection Fund. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which Representative Edmonds objected. The motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 15 nays. Representatives Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Leger, Miller, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, McFarland, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, Simon, and Zeringue voted nay.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 397 with amendments, to which Representative Smith objected. House Bill No. 397 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, McFarland, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Billiot, Leger, Miller, and Smith voted nay.

Present to provide information on House Bill No. 397 were Mr. W. Jeff Reynolds, Undersecretary, and Mr. Steve Russo, Executive Counsel, Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500; and Mr. Ellison Travis, Director of the Medicaid Unit, Department of Justice, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 326-6226.

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. 397 is available upon request.

**House Bill No. 518 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 518, which provided for a review of special funds and dedications and requires certain recommendations by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 518 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 518 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, Richard, Simon, 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 Bill No. 518 is available upon request.

**House Bill No. 389 by Representative Carmody**

Representative Carmody presented House Bill No. 389, which authorized the Commissioner of Conservation of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to enforce the La. Underground Utilities and Facilities Damage Prevention (OneCall) law as it applies to pipelines.

Representative Henry offered a set of amendments to provide that the centralized complaint system and form developed by the Commissioner of Conservation does not replace or conflict with the OneCall system established by the Office of State Police; to require damage prevention education; and to provide a time line for the transition of responsibilities from the Office of State Police to the Office of Conservation. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, Richard, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 389 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 389 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, Richard, Simon, 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 Bill No. 389 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 277 by Representative James**

Representative James presented House Bill No. 277, which provided relative to training of peace officers.

Representative Henry offered an amendment to add a training curriculum requirement for law enforcement interaction with those who are mentally ill and those with developmental disabilities, and offered a motion to adopt the amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, Richard, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Pylant offered a motion to report House Bill No. 277 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 277 was reported with amendments by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Simon, 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 Bill No. 277 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 590 by Representative Hilferty**

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 590, which provided for a review of and recommendation on certain dedicated funds.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report House Bill No. 590 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 590 was reported favorably by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Richard, Schroder, Simon, 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 Bill No. 590 is available upon request.

**House Bill No. 139 by Representative McFarland**

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 139, which required prior approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget of requests for proposals, contracts, and cooperative endeavor agreements over a specified dollar amount.

Representative McFarland offered a set of amendments to increase the dollar amount of contracts that require prior approval from JLCB. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Richard, Schroder, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 139 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 139 was reported with amendments by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Richard, Schroder, Simon, 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 Bill No. 139 is available upon request.

**House Bill No. 293 by Representative Amedée**

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 293, which provided relative to the limitation of liability of the state.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report House Bill No. 293 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 293 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 293 were Mr. Mark Dumaine and Mr. Dale Lee, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 222 St. Louis Street, #550, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 389-3400.

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. 293 is available upon request.

**House Bill No. 458 by Representative Amedée**

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 458, which eliminated certain statutory dedications of funds and eliminated certain dedications into certain funds.

Representative Amedée offered a set of amendments to remove the Barrier Island Stabilization and Preservation Fund, the Exploited Children's Special Fund, and the Help Louisiana Vote Fund from the bill. She also offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Leger offered a set of amendments to remove the Medifund from the bill. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 458. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 458 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, 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 Bill No. 458 is available upon request.

**House Bill No. 554 by Representative Schroder**

Representative Schroder presented House Bill No. 554, which provided relative to public procurement methods.

Representative Schroder offered a set of amendments to allow the Louisiana Municipal Association to perform reverse auctions to bid out state contracts in an effort to produce a cost savings to the state. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 554 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 554 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Chaney, Edmonds, Harris, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea.

Present in support of House Bill No. 554 was Mr. Paul Holmes, Mr. Cliff Palmer, Louisiana Municipal Association, and Mr. Kyle Gillman, Louisiana Municipal Advisory and Technical Services Bureau 700 North Tenth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 316-7157.

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. 554 is available upon request.

#### **House Bill No. 52 by Representative Connick**

Representative Henry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 52. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 52 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Chaney, Edmonds, Harris, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, 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 Bill No. 52 is available upon request.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Tommy Teague, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Group Benefits (OGB), P.O. Box 44036, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, discussed, and requested approval of, an amendment to a contract between OGB and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to approve the amendment to the contract. Without objection, the amendment was approved by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Richard, Schroder, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Chaney, Edmonds, Harris, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea.



The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry  
House Committee on Appropriations