

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
May 15, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:38 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 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 Scott M. Simon
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

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. 236 by Representative Shadoin**

Representative Shadoin presented House Bill No. 236, which eliminated certain constitutional dedication of revenue and certain treasury funds.

Representative Leger offered an amendment to remove proceeds from the Millennium Leverage Fund and deposit into the State General Fund. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered an amendment to remove the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund from the bill. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendment, to which Representative Pylant objected. The motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 12 nays. Representatives Amedée, Billiot, Leger, Miller, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Armes, Bacala, Berthelot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Harris, McFarland, Pylant, and Schroder voted nay.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report House Bill No. 236 with amendments, to which Representative Smith objected. House Bill No. 236 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 9 nays.

Representatives Henry, Abraham, Bacala, Berthelot, Edmonds, Harris, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, and Schroder voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Armes, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Miller, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted nay.

Present to speak in opposition was Mr. Derrell Cohoon, Associated General Contractors, 714 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 921-9233.

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. 236 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 443 by Representative Stokes

Representative Stokes presented House Bill No. 443, which dedicated revenue to fund the Inspector General's office.

Representative Henry offered a set of amendments to add that the purpose of the fund is to provide greater independence for the Office of the State Inspector General, and 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, Armes, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Mr. Stephen Street, State Inspector General, 602 North Fifth Street, Suite 621, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-4262, discussed the department's involvement in investing activities at the Louisiana State Penitentiary with Representative Pylant.

Representative Pylant offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 443, to which Representative Hodges objected. The motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 13 nays. Representatives Armes, Bacala, Berthelot, Edmonds, and Pylant voted yea. Representatives Abraham, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Foil, Harris, Hodges, Leger, Miller, Richard, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted nay.

Representative Pylant offered an amendment to fund the Office of the Inspector General be funded out of the revenue collected from investigations, and also offered a motion to adopt the amendment. The amendment was withdrawn before a vote was taken.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Hodges offered a motion to report House Bill No. 443 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 443 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Armes, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hodges, Leger, 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 Bill No. 443 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 238 by Representative Billiot

Representative Billiot presented House Bill No. 238, which authorized a request to suspend a license for nonpayment of child support to be made electronically.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 238 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 238 was reported favorably by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hodges, Leger, 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 Bill No. 238 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 585 by Representative Jay Morris

Representative Jay Morris presented House Bill No. 585, which provided for the dedication of gaming revenues to Higher Education.

Representative Henry offered a set of amendments to provide for the manner in which the funds are deposited into the State Treasury, that the funds are paid to the Gaming Control Division, and are authorized and directed to be deposited into the TOPS fund. 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, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hodges, Leger, Miller, Pylant, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 585. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 585 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Foil, Harris, Leger, 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 Bill No. 585 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 530 by Representative Broadwater

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 530, which established the Louisiana Headquartered Motion Picture Production Cooperative Endeavor Program and the Louisiana Headquartered Motion Picture Production Fund. (See Exhibits A, C, & D)

Representative Henry offered a substitute bill to House Bill No. 530, and offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the substitute bill was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Foil, Harris, Leger, Miller, Pylant, and Smith voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Henry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 530 by substitute, with recommendation to recommit to the House Committee on Ways & Means. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, McFarland, Pylant, Schroder, and Zeringue voted yea.

Present to speak in support was Mr. Will French, Film Production Capital, LLC, 77 Audubon Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70118, no telephone number provided. (See Exhibit B)

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. 530 is available upon request.

The meeting was recessed at 12:13 p.m. and reconvened at 1:27 p.m.

House Bill No. 49 by Representative Bishop

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 49, which provided for the Mineral and Energy Operation Fund.

Representative Henry offered an amendment to limit the additional deposits into the fund from judgements and settlements to FY17-18 through FY20-21, and offered a motion to adopt the amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Harris, Hensgens, McFarland, Pylant, Schroder, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 49 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 49 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Henry, Abraham, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Harris, Hensgens, McFarland, Pylant, Schroder, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 176 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 176, which eliminated the cap on the funding formula for voluntary parish Councils on Aging.

Representative Berthelot offered an amendment to remove the funding limit on the parish Councils on Aging if additional funds are available. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendment. Without objection, the amendment were adopted by a vote of 22 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 176 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 176 was reported with amendments by a vote of 22 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Present to provide information was Ms. Patrice Thomas, Legislative Fiscal Office, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7233.

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. 176 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 354 by Representative Thibaut

Representative Thibaut presented House Bill No. 354, which provided relative to the dedication of proceeds of the tax levied on motor fuels.

Representative Foil offered a set of amendments to change the effected date, to change the purposes of the use of the subfund, and to change the ballot language. 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 Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 354 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 354 was reported with amendments 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, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, 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. 354 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 486 by Representative Johnson

Representative Johnson presented House Bill No. 486, which provided relative to the state central registry for child abuse and neglect.

Representative Berthelot offered a set of technical amendments, and offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted 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, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report House Bill No. 486 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 486 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Foil, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Present to provide information were Dr. Eric Horent, Undersecretary, and Ms. Mona Michelli, Department of Children and Family Services, 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1102.

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. 486 is available upon request.

Senate Bill No. 112 by Senator White

Representative Foil presented Senate Bill No. 112 for Senator White, which provided relative to the execution of performance-based energy efficiency contracts.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 112 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 112 was reported favorably by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Foil, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Present to speak in support were Mr. Randy Haynie, Haynie and Associates, P.O. Box 44032, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 336-4143, and Mr. Jason Fritsche, Johnson Controls, 18247 Petroleum Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 202-0145. (See Exhibit E)

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. 112 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 456 by Representative Abramson

Representative Foil presented House Bill No. 456 for Representative Abramson, which provided for calling a limited constitutional convention.

Representative Foil offered a set of amendments to remove provisions related to hiring staff, and instead, provide for using staff from the House and Senate . 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, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report House Bill No. 456 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 456 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea.

Present to speak in support was Mr. Ron J. Sapia, no address provided, (985) 859-7119.

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. 456 is available upon request.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Henry announced that the remaining bills would be heard on May 16, 2017.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations