

## House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting  
2017 Regular Session  
May 16, 2017

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Franklin J. Foil, Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 10:36 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, Vice Chairman  
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 John M. Schroder, Sr.  
Representative Scott M. Simon  
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith  
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative James K. Armes, III  
Representative Blake Miguez

Representative Jerome Richard

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Katie Address, 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. 584 by Representative Leger**

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 584, which created a special fund for the purpose of funding Early Childhood Education in Louisiana.

Representative Leger offered a set of amendments to provide for a new method of distribution of the funds, and 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, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Foil offered a set of amendments to create the Achieving a Better Life Experience in Louisiana Fund (ABLE Fund), and he offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Chaney offered a motion to report House Bill No. 584 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 584 was reported with amendments by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea.

Present to speak in support were Mr. Tony Ligi, Jefferson Business Council, 4425 Clearview Parkway, Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 455-7974; Melanie Bronfin, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, 426 Atherton Drive, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 228-0988; Ms. Paula Polito, Bear-Y Cherry Tree, 3117 Lake Villa Drive, Metairie, LA 70002, (504) 455-1951; and Mr. Todd Murphy, Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce, 3421 North Causeway Boulevard, Metairie, LA 70118, (504) 835-3880. (See Exhibits A & 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. 584 is available upon request.

Representative Henry in the chair.

### **House Bill No. 413 by Representative Leger**

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 413, which provided relative to the funding of public defenders.

Representative Leger offered a set of amendments to specify that funds are to be used as the Public Defender Board deems appropriate and not to be used for any particular district defender office. 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, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 413 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 413 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Leger, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Present to speak in support was Mr. Derwyn Bunton, Chief Public Defender for Orleans Parish, 2601 Tulane Avenue, Suite 700, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 821-8101.

Present to provide information were Mr. James T. Dixon, Jr., Louisiana Public Defender Board, 301 Main Street, Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 219-9305; Mr. Robert Noel, Public Defender's Association, 2901 Evangeline Street, Monroe, LA 71201, (318) 388-1700; and Mr. Mark Dumaine, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 222 St. Louis Street, #550, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 389-3400. (See Exhibit C)

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. 413 is available upon request.

**House Bill No. 184 by Representative Abraham**

Representative Abraham presented House Bill No. 184, which created the Louisiana Jobs Now Fund for the purpose of funding Postsecondary Education degree and certificate production in high-demand fields.

Representative Abraham offered a set of amendments to specify that the amount deposited is equal to the amount of credits and exemptions taken in the last year the credit was available; increases the fund's match rate; and requires the Board of Regents to track the jobs created from the fund. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Miller, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Foil offered a set of amendments to create the ABLE Fund, and he offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Miller, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 184 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 184 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hodges, Miller, Simon, and Smith 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. 184 is available upon request.

**House Bill No. 255 by Representative Carter**

Representative Carter presented House Bill No. 255, which allowed for the use of the Budget Stabilization Fund for the state costs associated with a declared disaster.

Representative Carter offered a set of amendments to provide for deposits back into the fund from monies received by the state from the federal government for the reimbursement of costs related to a declared disaster. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 255 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 255 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Bacala offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Miller, Pylant, Schroder, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry  
House Committee on Appropriations