

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Second Extraordinary Session
June 12, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 11:17 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 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 John A. Berthelot

Representative Scott M. Simon

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
Vivian Hurst, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION

Commissioner Jay Dardenne, Division of Administration, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, discussed the impact of FY17-18 budget reductions in House Bill No. 1 of the 2017 Second Extraordinary Session.

Ms. Barbara Goodson, Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Administration, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, discussed supplemental funding for sheriff's local housing with Representative Henry.

Mr. Barry Dussé, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-150, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7005, discussed how funds (listed on the fiscal status statement) can be appropriated to cover a budget shortfall, uses of surplus funds, and moving money from one expenditure category to another with Representatives Henry, Edmonds, and Smith.

House Bill No. 1 by Representative Henry

The following agencies contained in House Bill No. 1 were presented and discussed:

Higher Education

Board of Regents

Dr. Joseph C. Rallo, Commissioner of Higher Education, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 6-200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4253, discussed the impact of FY17-18 budget reductions on Higher Education.

Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS)

Dr. Monty Sullivan, President of LCTCS, 265 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 992-2800, discussed the importance of investing in Higher Education and LCTCS's mission.

Louisiana State University

Dr. F. King Alexander, President of the Louisiana State University System (LSU), 3810 West Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 578-2111, discussed the effects of mid-year budget reductions on LSU and the impact of fully funding the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) with Representative Henry, and the cost savings from giving the university system more autonomy with Representatives Amedée and Smith.

University of Louisiana System

Dr. Jim Henderson, President of the University of Louisiana System (UL), 1201 North Third Street, 7-300, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6950, discussed the disinvestment in Higher Education and increases in mandated costs with Representatives Henry and Leger.

Southern University System

Dr. Ray L. Belton, President of the Southern University System, P.O. Box 9374, Baton Rouge, LA 70813, (225) 771-5020, discussed the effects of mandated costs on students at Southern University with Representative Leger.

Board of Regents

Dr. Rallo discussed Louisiana's ranking (among colleges in the Southern Regional Average) in tuition and fees with Representative Amedée.

Dr. Rallo and Mr. Terrence Ginn, Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Administration for the Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 6-200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4253, discussed compensation for faculty and staff for the four university systems with Representative Miguez.

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)

Dr. Rebekah Gee, LDH Secretary, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, presented and discussed the department's plan for the FY17-18 budget reduction. (See Exhibit A)

Mr. W. Jeff Reynolds, LDH Undersecretary, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225)342-6725, discussed the comparison between the FY16-17 existing operating budget (EOB) to the proposed FY17-18 budget with Representative Schroder.

Mr. Andrew Tuozzolo, LDH Chief of Staff, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, discussed the department's federal audit findings with Representative Bacala. Ms. Jen Steele, LDH Medicaid Director, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, also discussed potential cost savings from pharmaceutical rebates with Representative Bacala.

Ms. Michelle Alletto, LDH Deputy Secretary, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, discussed the cost savings associated with implementing a new managed care model with Representative Bacala.

Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Alletto discussed long-term managed care services with Representative Hensgens.

Dr. Gee and Ms. Alletto discussed the impact of certain proposed FY17-18 reductions on the department with Representative Leger.

Dr. Gee, Mr. Reynolds, and Commissioner Dardenne discussed the cost savings related to the managed care organizations (MCO), the process to renegotiate the hospital public-private partnerships, the type of information on the hospital public-private partnerships' cost reports, and moving toward the "money follows the patient" model with Representatives Henry and Bacala.

Department of Children and Family Services

Ms. Marketa Garner Walters, Secretary for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6930, discussed the impact of FY17-18 budget reductions on the department. (See Exhibit B)

Dr. Eric Horent, DCFS Undersecretary, 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1102, discussed the department's turn-over rate, the requirements to become a social services specialist, and employee salaries and related benefits with Representative Leger. He also discussed how the department plans to absorb a mid-year budget reduction with Representative Henry.

Dr. Rhenda Hodnett, DCFS Assistant Secretary of Child Welfare, 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6930, discussed investigations of children in the foster care system with Representative Henry.

Department of Public Safety and Corrections

Corrections Services

Secretary James M. LeBlanc, and Mr. Thomas Bickham, Undersecretary, Department of Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70884, (225) 342-6702, discussed the impact of FY17-18 budget reductions on the department with Representative Leger. They also discussed the department's supplemental needs and mandated costs with Representative Bacala.

Secretary LeBlanc discussed the early release of certain inmates with Representatives Edmonds and Pylant.

Commissioner Dardenne discussed the impact of the FY18-19 fiscal cliff to the department with Representative Henry.

Public Safety Services

Colonel Kevin Reeves, Interim Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-6202, discussed the impact of FY17-18 budget reductions to the department.

Lt. Colonel Jason Starnes, Chief Administrative Officer, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-6032, discussed the impact of reductions to certain statutorily dedicated funds with Representative Leger. He and Col. Reeves also discussed the cost associated with Troop N in the New Orleans French Quarter with Representative Chaney, and potential savings associated with troopers retiring in the FY17-18 year with Representative Pylant.

Department of Civil Service

Mr. Byron P. Decoteau, Jr., Director, and Mr. Chris Deer, Deputy Director of the Department of Civil Service, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 3-280, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-8272, discussed the department's Compensation Redesign Plan.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Mr. Homer F. Rodgers, Undersecretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-5000, discussed the impact of FY17-18 budget reductions on the department. He and Commissioner Dardenne also discussed employee premium pay and special entry rates with Representative Miguez.

Department of Public Safety and Corrections**Youth Services**

Dr. James Bueche, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ), 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 287-7900, discussed the department's FY17-18 budget. He also discussed the department's retention rate with Representative Leger, and the cost to operate the Acadiana Facility with Representative Henry. (See Exhibit C)

Department of Revenue

Mr. Clarence Lymon, Undersecretary for the Department of Revenue, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-2150, discussed the need for additional audit staff within the department with Representative Henry.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Pylant offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 22 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, 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 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations