

**Joint Meeting of House Committee on Ways and Means  
and Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs**

Minutes of Meeting  
2019 Interim Session  
November 6, 2019

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Neil C. Abramson, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at **10:14** a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Neil C. Abramson, chairman  
Representative Chris Broadwater  
Representative Paula P. Davis  
Representative Dodie Horton  
Representative Barry Ivey  
Representative Edward C. "Ted" James, II  
Representative Robert A. Johnson  
Representative James H. "Jim" Morris, vice chairman  
Representative Clay Schexnayder  
Representative Walt Leger, III, ex officio

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Joseph Bouie, Jr.  
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier  
Representative Stephen C. Dwight  
Representative Jimmy Harris  
Representative Marcus L. Hunter  
Representative Mike Huval  
Representative John C. "Jay" Morris, III  
Representative Alan Seabaugh  
Representative Julie Stokes  
Representative Major Thibaut

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alison Pryor, deputy director

Elise C. Read, legislative analyst  
Linda Hopkins, administrative secretary

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

None

**III. BUSINESS**

**To review and approve administrative rules from the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) regarding the expansion of the School Readiness Tax Credit per HR No. 217 of the 2017 R.S.**

Ms. Erin Bendily, Assistant Superintendent, and Ms. Lisa Brochard, Chief of Staff, Office of Early Childhood, Dept. of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-5840, explained the background during the 2017 Regular Session of the repealed School Readiness Tax Credit, which provided approximately \$18 per family, for each dependent enrolled in K through 12 schools. Members were provided a handout entitled, "*School Readiness Tax Credit Revisions Pursuant to SR 209 and House Resolution 217 of 2017*" (See Exhibit A). The proposition expressed at the end of the 2017 Regular Session was to appropriate half of the proceeds and invest them toward early childhood. Two resolutions filed at the end of the last session, one by Representative Patricia Smith, and one by Senator Morrell, formally urged that BESE take advantage of this opportunity and promulgate emergency rules to dedicate a portion of this money. The House Resolution specifically asked for 50% of the revenue to be applied to the School Readiness Tax Credit, benefitting early childhood teachers across the state in licensed childcare facilities. BESE met and worked closely with the Governor's office, the Division of Administration, the Dept. of Revenue, and the Early Childhood Advisory Council to acquire emergency rules that would utilize the revenue. Members were provided a handout of the Declaration of Emergency, House Resolution No. 217, and a letter from BESE addressed to Governor John Bel Edwards (See Exhibit B). The law requires that anytime there is a school readiness tax credit, relations are revised by the lead agency, and approval of the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, and the House and Senate education committees is mandatory. The goal is to obtain approval by December 1, 2017, deadline.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to adopt the emergency rule regarding the expansion of the School Readiness Tax Credit per House Resolution No. 217 of the 2017 Regular Session. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Broadwater, Davis, Horton, Ivey, James, Johnson, Leger, Jim Morris, and Schexnayder 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 is available upon request.

**To review and approve the third party convenience fee schedule for the Office of Public Health (OPH) pursuant to R.S. 49:316.1 for certain water testing fees, water and wastewater operator exam and certification fees, and lab certification fees.**

Ms. Melinda Richard, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Louisiana Dept. of Health, (LDH) 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, explained the project approval between contracted Office Technology Services and the state of Louisiana, allowing LDH to place electronic processes in place so constituents may order services online. Members were provided copies of correspondence to (1) Chairman Abramson from LDH, and to (2) Chairman Abramson from the State Treasurer (See Exhibit C).

Representative Jim Morris offered a motion to adopt the third party convenience fees as listed for the Office of Public Health pursuant to R.S. 49:316.1 for certain water testing fees, water and wastewater operator exam and certification fees, and lab certification fees. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Broadwater, Davis, Horton, Ivey, James, Johnson, Leger, Jim Morris, and Schexnayder 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 is available upon request.

**To review and approve the third party convenience fee schedule for the Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) pursuant to R.S. 49:316.1 for certain truck and trailer registration fees.**

Ms. Karen St. Germain, Commissioner, and Ms. Staci Hoyt, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Motor Vehicles, 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 925-6161, presented information on the service fee portal, expiring on November 30, 2017. This would result in substituting one vendor for another whereby OMV will continue to offer the service fee portal on December 1, 2017. The request before the committee is to allow customers to pay with a credit card from their home or from the OMV office. Members were provided copies of correspondence to (1) Chairman Abramson from the State Treasurer, and (2) correspondence to the State Treasurer from the Commissioner of OMV (See Exhibit D).

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to adopt the third party convenience fee as listed for the Office of Motor Vehicles pursuant to R.S. 49:316.1 for certain truck and trailer registration fees. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Broadwater, Davis, Horton, Ivey, James, Johnson, Leger, Jim Morris, and Schexnayder 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 is available upon request.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Abramson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Broadwater, Davis, Horton, Ivey, James, Johnson, Leger, Jim Morris, and Schexnayder voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Neil C. Abramson  
House Committee on Ways and Means