

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2018 Regular Session  
March 13, 2018

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

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:39 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 Reid Falconer  
Representative Franklin J. Foil, Vice Chairman  
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 Patricia Haynes Smith  
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Scott M. Simon

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Katie Andress, Secretary  
Mr. Peter G. E. Conroy, Legislative Analyst  
Ms. Talisha Lee, Legislative Analyst

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Ms. Vivian Hurst, Sergeant at Arms  
Ms. Faye Talbot, Sergeant at Arms

**III. DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Jay Dardenne, Division of Administration (DOA), 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, presented and discussed the governor's recommendations for the appropriations proposed in House Bill No. 1 of the 2018 Regular Session, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Ms. Barbara Goodson, Deputy Commissioner, DOA, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, discussed the state's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) debt service payments with Representative Miguez.

Mr. Barry Dussé, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-120, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7005, and Commissioner Dardenne discussed constitutional provisions to use one-time money to balance the state's budget with Representatives Leger and Miguez.

Mr. W. Jeff Reynolds, Undersecretary of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, discussed Medicaid expansion, payments to Managed Care Organizations (MCO), and budget reductions to the department with Representatives Henry, Bacala, Hensgens and McFarland.

Commissioner Dardenne discussed operations of Allen Correctional Center with Representative McFarland.

Mr. Dussé, Commissioner Dardenne, and Ms. Goodson discussed the development of the FY18-19 budget with Representatives Henry and Harris.

Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Michelle Alletto, Deputy Secretary, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, discussed the available funding for Medicaid waiver slots with Representative Henry.

Ms. Ternisa Hutchinson, Deputy Director, OPB, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-120, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7005, presented the Preamble to House Bill No. 1 of the 2018 Regular Session, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Patrick Goldsmith, Director of the House Fiscal Division (HFD), 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2440, presented the organizational portion of the meeting.

Mr. Daniel Waguespack, Budget Analyst, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7477, discussed the Board of Regent's Higher Education funding formula with Representative Miguez.

### **House Bill No. 1 by Representative Henry**

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

#### **Executive Department**

Mr. Chris Henry, Budget Analyst, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1394, presented an overview and discussed the FY18-19 budgets for the agencies contained within the Executive Department.

#### **Office of Indian Affairs**

Dr. Chaunda Mitchell, Director of the Office of Indian Affairs, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0424, discussed the Avoyelles Parish Gaming Mitigation Fund with Representative Smith.

#### **Executive Office**

Ms. Desireé Honoré Thomas, Assistant Commissioner, DOA, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, discussed salary increases within the Governor's Office with Representative Miguez.

Ms. Erin Monroe Wesley, Special Counsel to the Governor, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7015, discussed current personnel and potential budget reductions to the Governor's Office with Representative Miguez.

#### **Division of Administration**

Ms. Thomas discussed the effects of potential budget reductions to DOA with Representative Miguez.

Mr. Dussé discussed the tax incentives with Representative Armes.

Mr. Neal Underwood, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of Technology Services, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7105, discussed integrating Higher Education into the LaGov System with Representative Miguez.

### **Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District (LSED)**

Mr. Evan Holmes, Director of Business Operations, and Mr. David Weidler, Director of Finance, SMG New Orleans, 1500 Sugar Bowl Drive, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 587-3913, discussed team entitlements and building maintenance with Representatives Amedée and Falconer.

Ms. Hilary Hurst Landry, Board Member of LSED, 1010 Common Street, Suite 2050, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 388-3032, discussed the board's ethics rules with Representative Miguez.

### **Office of the State Inspector General**

Mr. Stephen Street, State Inspector General, 602 North Fifth Street, Suite 621, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-4262, discussed the office's FY18-19 budget and types of services provided with the committee.

### **Mental Health Advocacy Service**

Ms. Julia Gradney, Accountant Administrator, Mental Health Advocacy Service, 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3937, discussed significant increases in the agency's budget from FY16-17 to FY17-18 with Representative Amedée. Ms. Gradney and Ms. Kathy Cook, Attorney Supervisor, Mental Health Advocacy Service, 302 Dulles Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506, (no telephone number provided) also discussed the impact of budget reductions on the agency and the types of services provided with the committee.

### **Louisiana Tax Commission**

Mr. Tim Peat, Director of the Louisiana Tax Commission, 1051 North Third Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-0339, discussed the commission's FY18-19 budget with the committee. Mr. Peat also discussed property tax assessments with Representative McFarland.

### **Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority**

Ms. Janice Lansing, Chief Financial Officer of the Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority (CPRA), 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7308, discussed increases in the agency's salary and related benefits with Representative Bacala.

Mr. Michael Ellis, Executive Director of CPRA, 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7308, discussed the agency's FY18-19 budget with Representative Miguez.

**Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)**

Mr. Henry and Mr. James B. Waskom, Executive Director of GOHSEP, 7667 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-7345, discussed FEMA debt payments with Representative Edmonds.

Mr. Waskom and Ms. Christina Dayries, Assistant Deputy Director of GOHSEP, 7667 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 358-5599, also discussed the agency's FY18-19 budget with Representative Miguez.

**Department of Military Affairs**

Major General Glenn H. Curtis, Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard, 304 F Street, Pineville, LA 71360, (318) 613-5313, discussed the FY18-19 budget for the department and deferred maintenance costs with Representatives Edmonds and Miguez. Major General Curtis also discussed the Youth Challenge Program and the Starbase Program with Representative Falconer.

General Curtis and Major General Stephen C. Dabadie, Assistant Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard, 5445 Point Clair Road, Carville, LA 70721, (225) 255-8216, discussed deferred maintenance and the use of one-time money in the department's budget with Representative Amedée.

**Louisiana Public Defender Board**

Mr. James T. Dixon, Jr., State Public Defender, Louisiana Public Defender Board, 301 Main Street, Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 219-9305, discussed the board's FY18-19 budget with Representatives Bacala and Miguez.

**Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice**

Mr. Jim Craft, Executive Director for the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1560, discussed the effects of budget reductions on the commission with Representative Miguez. Mr. Craft also discussed Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) with Representative Falconer.

**Office of Elderly Affairs**

Ms. Karen Ryder, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Elderly Affairs, 525 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 342-7100, discussed the funding allocations for the state's senior centers with Representative Miguez.

**Louisiana State Racing Commission**

Mr. Charles Gardiner, Executive Director of the Louisiana State Racing Commission, 320 North Carrollton Avenue, Suite 2-B, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 483-4000, discussed the services provided by the commission and the FY18-19 budget.

**Office of Financial Institutions**

Ms. Christine O. Kirkland, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Financial Institutions, 8660 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-0632, discussed the agency's turnover rate with Representatives McFarland and Miguez.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Chaney offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 24 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry  
House Committee on Appropriations