

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2018 Regular Session  
March 20, 2018

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

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:33 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 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 Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative Dustin Miller  
Representative Steve E. Pylant  
Representative Jerome Richard  
Representative Scott M. Simon  
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith  
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative James K. Armes, III  
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.  
Representative Walt Leger, III

**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  
Ms. Michaela Welts, Sergeant at Arms

**III. DISCUSSION****House Bill No. 1 by Representative Henry**

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

**Department of Treasury**

Mr. Chris Henry, Budget Analyst, House Fiscal Division (HFD), 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1394, presented an overview and discussed the FY18-19 budget for the department.

Treasurer John Schroder, Department of Treasury, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0010, discussed the department's FY18-19 budget and discussed the Unclaimed Property Fund with Representative Smith.

Mr. Ron Henson, First Assistant State Treasurer, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0010, discussed the Medicaid Trust Fund for the Elderly with Representative Smith.

Mr. Henry and Treasurer Schroder discussed the effects of potential budget reductions to the department with Representative Amedée.

Mr. John Broussard, Assistant State Treasurer, Department of Treasury, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0013, discussed the department's cash management functions with Representative Falconer.

Mr. Henson and Ms. Kathleen Lobell, Director of Unclaimed Property Division, Department of Treasury, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-9377, discussed the Unclaimed Property Fund with Representative Abraham.

Ms. Laura Lapeze, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Treasury, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0051, discussed the department's payroll and related benefits expenses and impact of market rate adjustments on the department with Representative Bacala.

Ms. Nancy Keaton, Chief of Staff, Department of Treasury, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1684, discussed the Medicaid Trust Fund for the Elderly with Representative Henry.

### **Department of State**

Ms. Jamie Tairov, Budget Analyst, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0474, presented an overview and discussed the department's FY18-19 budget.

Secretary Tom Schedler, and Mr. Kyle Ardoin, First Assistant Secretary, Department of State, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-2880, discussed the increase in the department's state general fund allocation in FY12, the amount of fees collected at state museums, and the department's payroll and related benefits expenses with Representatives Abraham, Bacala, and Foil.

### **Office of the Lieutenant Governor**

Mr. Mark Antoon, Budget Analyst, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2412, presented an overview and discussed the FY18-19 budget for the agency.

Lt. Governor William "Billy" Nungesser, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7009, discussed the increased cost of employee benefits with Representative Amedée.

Lt. Governor Nungesser and Mr. Judd Jeansonne, Executive Director of Volunteer Louisiana, 701 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3125, discussed the Americorps Program with Representative Smith.

Ms. Nancy Watkins, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 342-8201, discussed the department's payroll and related benefits expenses with Representative Bacala.

### **Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism**

Mr. Antoon presented an overview and discussed the department's FY18-19 budget.

Lt. Governor Nungesser discussed the impact of budget reductions on the Seafood Marketing and Promotion Board with Representative Zeringue, and discussed budget reductions to state museums and parks with Representative Harris.

Lt. Governor Nungesser discussed the impact of the mandated market rate adjustment plan with Representatives Henry and Smith.

The meeting was recessed at 11:53 a.m. and reconvened at 1:16 p.m.

### **Department of Economic Development**

Mr. Henry presented an overview and discussed the department's FY18-19 budget.

Secretary Don Pierson, Department of Economic Development, P.O. Box 94185, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-5388, and Mr. Henry discussed the department's off budget escrow account with Representative Amedée.

Secretary Pierson also discussed the impact of budget reductions on the department with Representative Miguez.

Ms. Anne Villa, Undersecretary, Department of Economic Development, P.O. Box 94185, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-5395, discussed the department's expenses for payroll and related employee benefits with Representative Bacala.

Ms. Mandi Mitchell, Assistant Secretary, Department of Economic Development, P.O. Box 94185, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-5395, discussed the department's incentive programs and revenue projections with Representative McFarland.

### **Louisiana Workforce Commission**

Ms. Tairov presented an overview and discussed the commission's FY18-19 budget.

Ms. Ava Dejoie, Secretary, and Mr. Bennett Soulier, Undersecretary, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 North 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7960, discussed funded vacancies and the increase in statutory dedicated funds to the commission with Representative McFarland.

Mr. Soulier and Ms. Dejoie discussed the commission's budget authority versus the funds actually spent in FY17-18 with Representative Henry.

### **Louisiana Public Service Commission**

Ms. Tairov presented an overview and discussed the FY18-19 budget for the commission.

Mr. Brandon Frey, Executive Secretary, and Mr. Colby Cook, Press Secretary, Louisiana Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 91154, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 342-5163, discussed problems with the Do Not Call Program with Representatives Berthelot and Miller.

**Department of Civil Service**

Mr. Chas Nichols, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2444, presented an overview and discussed the department's FY18-19 budget.

Mr. Jason Hannaman, Executive Director, State Police Commission, P.O. Box 66555, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (225) 925-7057, presented an update on a particular state police investigation with Representative Falconer.

Mr. Byron P. Decoteau, Jr., Executive Director, and Mr. Chris Deer, Deputy Director, State Civil Service, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-8272, discussed the agency's efforts to address the employee turnover rate within the Office of Financial Institutions with Representative McFarland.

Mr. Decoteau discussed the fiscal impact of implementing the market rate adjustment pay plan with Representative Miguez and also provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 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 Miguez 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, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Foil, Lance Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, Richard, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry  
House Committee on Appropriations