

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2018 Regular Session
April 9, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:19 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 Reid Falconer
Representative Franklin J. Foil, Vice Chairman
Representative Lance Harris
Representative Bob Hensgens
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative James K. Armes, III
Representative Valarie Hodges

Representative Steve E. Pylant
Representative Scott M. Simon

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

None

III. DISCUSSION

House Bill No. 1 by Representative Henry

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

Department of Public Safety

Mr. Mark Antoon, Budget Analyst, House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2412, presented an overview of the department, Exhibit A, and discussed the FY18-19 budget.

Colonel Kevin Reeves, Superintendent, Dept. of Public Safety, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-6116, addressed the committee regarding the Department's budget, personnel information, various missions throughout the state, and the Louisiana State Police serving the French Quarter (Troop N).

Lieutenant Jason Starnes, Chief Administrative Officer, Dept. of Public Safety, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-6032, addressed the committee on Office of Motor Vehicles Fees and Self-Generated Revenues, vacancies, retirement, attrition, and cadet training.

Office of Motor Vehicles

Ms. Karen St. Germain, Commissioner, Office of Motor Vehicles, P.O. Box 64886, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (225) 925-4656, addressed the committee on modernization of OMV offices, updated technology, staff positions, and training of employees.

Ms. Staci Hoyt, Office of Motor Vehicles, P.O. Box 64886, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (225) 925-6161, addressed the committee on the distribution of field offices, Public Tag Agencies (PTA), and services offered by OMV versus PTA.

Higher Education

Mr. Dan Layzell, Chief Financial Officer, Louisiana State University, (no address or phone number given) addressed the committee on restricted funds, those limited by obligations to bond holders, granting agencies, clients and university policy and those received through specific activities and grants.

Dr. Monty Sullivan, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 922-1643, addressed the committee on federal program administration and the Perkins Fund, a principal source of federal funding to states and discretionary grantees for the improvement of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs across the nation.

Mr. Jim Henderson, UL System President, (no address provided), (318) 426-7104, spoke to the inquiry of restricted or non-restricted funds, which are carefully delineated in GASB (Governmental Accountability Standards Board) and then evaluated by the Legislative Auditor on all campuses and system offices. Third parties have the ability to restrict funds.

State Civil Service

Mr. Byron P. Decoteau, Jr., Director, State Civil Service, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-8273, addressed the committee's questions related to pay raises: FY18 total costs of \$31 million, \$13 million in State General Fund, Self Generated and fees along the way.

Mr. Chris Deer, Deputy Director, State Civil Service, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-9424, addressed the committee on FY18, Phases 1 and 2, State General Fund, structure adjustments, and implementation costs.

Corrections Services

Mr. Thomas Bickham, Undersecretary, Department of Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6740, addressed the committee on budget effectiveness, justice reinvestments, local housing of inmates costs, and total net funds.

Mr. Mike Ranatza, Executive Director, Louisiana Sheriff's Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-8402, addressed the committee on the \$29 million reduction that Corrections is currently facing.

Secretary Jimmy LeBlanc, Department of Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 312-6633, addressed the committee on the closing of 15 facilities at the local level, eliminating transitional work programs, criminal reinvestments with local sheriffs, and the effects of FY18-19 budget reductions on the department.

Louisiana Department of Health

Commissioner Jay Dardenne, Division of Administration, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, addressed the committee regarding the anticipated Revenue Estimating Conference meeting.

Dr. Rebekah Gee, Secretary, La. Dept. of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, addressed the committee regarding the effects of FY18-19 budget reductions on the department.

Dr. Larry Hollier, Professor of Surgery Chancellor, LSU Health Sciences Center, 433 Bolivar Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 568-4800, addressed the committee on the process of training and the funding of residents, salaries, and physicians who train the residents.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Henry informed the committee that tomorrow's Appropriations meeting would begin with the Louisiana Department of Health.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Pat Smith offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representative Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations