

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2018 Regular Session
April 30, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:36 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 Valarie Hodges
Representative Walt Leger, III
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 Jack G. McFarland

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 465 by Representative Connick**

Representative Henry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 465, which changes the dedication of a portion of the truck and trailer fees collected in certain parishes and creates the Regional Maintenance and Improvement Fund. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 465 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Chaney, Foil, Harris, Leger, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 745 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Henry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 745, which provides for the Dedicated Fund Review Subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and submission and approval of plans related to special funds and dedications. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 745 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Foil, Hensgens, Leger, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 703 by Representative Gisclair

Representative Gisclair presented House Bill No. 703, which increases the amount dedicated for deposit into the Unclaimed Property Leverage Fund and establishes the LA 1 Improvement Project Account with the fund.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments which: (1) delete increase in deposits into the Unclaimed Property Leverage Fund; (2) delete establishment of the LA 1 Improvement Project Account within the Unclaimed Property Leverage Fund; (3) add establishment of the LA 1 Improvement Project Fund as a special treasury fund for the finance of the LA 1 Improvement Project from Golden Meadow to Leeville in South Lafourche Parish; and (4) change the permissible uses of monies for the LA 1 Improvement Project from match to federal funding to match for any other funding. Representative Zeringue also offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Foil, Harris, Leger, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Henry offered technical amendments. Representative Henry also offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Foil, Harris, Leger, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Mr. Chett Chiasson, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, 16829 East Main Street, Cut Off, LA 70345, (985) 632-6701, spoke in support of House Bill No. 703.

Mr. Ron Henson, First Assistant State Treasurer, Department of Treasury, 900 North Third Street, Third Floor, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0010, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 703.

Mr. Alan Boxberger, General Government Section Director, Legislative Fiscal Office, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7233, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 703.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 703 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 703 was reported with amendments by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hodges, Leger, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 36 by Representative Pearson

Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 36, which provides for the membership of the Louisiana Deferred Compensation Commission.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 36 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 36 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hodges, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 454 by Representative Foil

Representative Foil presented House Bill No. 454, which requires the division of administration to establish, maintain, and make public a list of unpaid outstanding final tort judgments against the state.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report House Bill No. 454 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 454 was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Miller, Pylant, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 480 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 480, which provides relative to Medicaid fraud detection and prevention.

Representative Bacala offered amendments which: (1) delete provision for duties of the La. Dept. of Health in administering the Medicaid program; (2) delete provision relative to Medicaid eligibility determination functions of the La. Dept. of Health; (3) delete requirement the La. Dept. of Health to utilize income tax data in the Medicaid eligibility determination process; and (4) make technical changes. Representative Bacala also offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Miller, Pylant, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Dustin Miller offered amendments to give the Legislative Auditor access to state income tax data for any entity. Representative Miller also offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Bacala objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 14 nays. Representatives Abraham, Billiot, Carter, Miller, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Henry, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Hensgens, Hodges, Miguez, Pylant, Richard, and Zeringue voted nay.

Mr. Daryl Purpera, La. Legislative Auditor, 1600 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 339-3800, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 480.

Mr. W. Jeff Reynolds, Undersecretary, Louisiana Department of Health, P.O. Box 3797, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 342-6726, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 480.

Secretary Kimberly L. Robinson, Department of Revenue, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-4059, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 480.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 480 with amendments, to which Representative Gary Carter objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 480 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Hensgens, Hodges, Miguez, Pylant, Richard, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Carter, Miller, and Smith voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 656 by Representative Emerson

Representative Emerson presented House Bill No. 656, which provides relative to literacy screenings for students.

Ms. Erin Bendily, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-5840, spoke in support of House Bill No. 656.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 656 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 656 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Hensgens, Hodges, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 596 by Representative Gary Carter

Representative Gary Carter presented House Bill No. 596, which repeals the termination date on the New Orleans Ferry Fund.

Representative Gary Carter offered technical amendments. Representative Carter also offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Hensgens, Hodges, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Mr. Rodney Braxton, City of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166, spoke in support of House Bill No. 596.

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 596 with amendments.

Without objection, House Bill No. 596 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Hensgens, Hodges, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 383 by Representative Davis

Representative Davis presented House Bill No. 383, which authorizes a rebate for first-time home buyers.

Mr. Norman Morris, Chief Executive Officer of the Louisiana Realtors Association, 821 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 229-8538, spoke in support of House Bill No. 383.

Representative Henry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 383. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 383 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Hensgens, Hodges, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 853 by Representative Davis

Representative Davis presented House Bill No. 853, which dedicates certain state sales and use tax revenues for deposit into the Construction Subfund of the Transportation Trust Fund under certain circumstances.

Mr. Jesse McCormick, Capitol Partners for LAGC, 532 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 202-1875, spoke in support of House Bill No. 853.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report House Bill No. 853 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 853 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Foil, Hensgens, Leger, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 590 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 590, which creates the Efficient Government Act and provides for the Council on Efficient Government and its powers and duties.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 590. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 590 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Foil, Hensgens, Leger, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Foil, Hensgens, Leger, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations