

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2018 Regular Session
May 1, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:59 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 Charles R. Chaney
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Reid Falconer
Representative Franklin J. Foil, Vice Chairman
Representative Lance Harris
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Steve E. Pylant
Representative Scott M. Simon
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Bob Hensgens
Representative Dustin Miller

Representative Jerome Richard

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Katie Address, 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. 833 by Representative Jay Morris

Representative Jay Morris presented House Bill No. 833, which provides for reduction to revenues into certain statutory funds.

Representative Berthelot offered amendments to remove the Two Percent Fire Insurance Fund, the La. Fire Marshall Fund, the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Operating Fund, and the La. State University Firemen Training Program Film Library Fund from the bill. Representative Berthelot also offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Falconer, Harris, McFarland, Pylant, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Armes offered amendments to remove the Video Draw Poker Device Purse Supplement Fund from the bill. Representative Armes also offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Falconer, Harris, McFarland, Pylant, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative McFarland offered amendments to remove the Forestry Productivity Fund from the bill. Representative McFarland also offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Falconer, Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea.

Mr. Edwin Fenasci, Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association, 1535 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 945-1555, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 833.

Mr. Chris Henry, Budget Analyst, House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1394, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 833.

Mr. Willis Brewer, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Office, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7233, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 833.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report House Bill No. 833 with amendments, to which Representative Chaney objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 833 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Henry, Bacala, Berthelot, Falconer, Foil, Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Abraham, Armes, Bagley, Billiot, and Chaney voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 37 in opposition and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

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 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Falconer, Foil, Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 by Representative Falconer

Representative Falconer presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 14, which directs the office of state buildings and grounds to duplicate all signage at the state capitol in French.

Mr. William Arceneaux, Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, 7733 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 767-4449, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 14.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Falconer, Foil, Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 62 by Senator Martiny

On behalf of Senator Martiny, Representative Henry presented Senate Bill No. 62, which re-creates entities transferred to or placed within the office of the governor.

Representative Henry offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 62 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 62 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Falconer, Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 873 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 873, which dedicates any new revenue realized as a result of the enactment of legislation relative to sports betting and other forms of gaming to the La. Early Childhood Education Fund.

Ms. Melanie Bronfin, LA Policy Institute for Children, 426 Atherton Drive, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 228-0988, spoke in support of House Bill No. 873 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Dr. Claude J. Tellis, Sr., 5317 Lost Oak Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 752-5668, spoke in support of House Bill No. 873.

Ms. Erin Bendily, Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (877) 453-2721, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 873.

Representative Henry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 873. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 873 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Falconer, Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 471 by Representative Stokes

Representative Stokes presented House Bill No. 471, which requires the division of administration to establish, maintain, and make public a list of unpaid outstanding final tort judgments against the state.

Representative Henry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 471. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 471 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Falconer, Harris, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 689 by Representative Stokes

Representative Stokes presented House Bill No. 689, which provides for coverage for fertility preservation for individuals diagnosed with cancer.

Representative Smith offered amendments to change the effective date from 2019 to 2020. Representative Smith offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Falconer, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Ms. Kate Yglasias Houghton, President and Chief Executive Officer of Critical Mass: The Young Adult Cancer Alliance, 80 M Street SE, Washington, DC 20003, (305) 299-0856, spoke in support of House Bill No. 689 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Dr. Sissy Sartor, Fertility Institute of New Orleans, 3525 Prytania Street, Suite 220, New Orleans, LA 70115, (504) 908-6907, spoke in support of House Bill No. 689.

Mr. Jeff Drozda, LA Association of Health Plans, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1850, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 378-3206, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 689.

Mr. Rob Tasman, LA Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 344-7120, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 689.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 689 with amendments, to which Representative Miguez objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 8 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Henry, Bacala, Billiot, Falconer, Harris, Pylant, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Bagley, Berthelot, Edmonds, Hodges, Miguez, and Simon voted nay.

Representative Henry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 689. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 689 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Edmonds, Falconer, Harris, Hodges, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 7 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 885 by Representative Glover

Representative Glover presented House Bill No. 885, which enacts the Safety Net Hospital Preservation Act and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Vernon Moore, Chief Financial Officer, University Health System, 1541 Kings Highway, Shreveport, LA 71103, (318) 626-0990, spoke in support of House Bill No. 885.

Mr. Jerry Phillips, LCMC Health, 13149 Bluffton Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, (225) 954-2085, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 885.

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. 885.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 885 favorably, to which Representative Abraham objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 885 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Pylant, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Foil, Harris, Hodges, Miguez, Simon, and Zeringue voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 336 by Representative Cox

Representative Henry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 336, which provides for a single preferred drug list in Medicaid managed care. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 336 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Foil, Harris, Hodges, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, 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 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Foil, Harris, Hodges, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations