

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2018 Third Extraordinary Session  
June 20, 2018

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

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 10:33 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 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 James K. Armes, III  
Representative Scott M. Simon

**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. 1 by Representative Henry**

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

**Executive Department**

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

**Division of Administration**

Ms. Desirée Honoré Thomas, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Administration (DOA), 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, discussed certain items within the division's proposed FY18-19 budget with Representatives Henry and Billiot.

Ms. Barbara Goodson, Deputy Commissioner, DOA, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, discussed the Over Collections Fund with Representative Henry. Ms. Goodson also discussed funding for the state's senior centers with Representative McFarland.

**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 impact of budget reductions to the department with Representative Bagley. He also discussed the Louisiana National Guard's involvement in the implementation of the Trump Administration's immigration policy with Representative Carter.

**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 impact of budget reductions on the state's senior centers and Councils on Aging with Representative McFarland.

**Department of Veterans Affairs**

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

Colonel Joey Strickland, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 588-1634, discussed the impact of FY18-19 budget reductions with Representative Henry. Colonel Strickland also discussed the department's efforts to provide proper burial for indigent and homeless veterans with Representative Carter.

**Department of State**

Mr. Nichols presented an overview of the department's FY18-19 budget.

Secretary Kyle Ardoin, Department of State, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-2880, discussed the impact of budget reductions on the department, the department's funded vacancies and the implementation of the State Civil Service pay plan with Representatives Henry, Chaney and Leger.

**Department of Justice**

Mr. Peter G. E. Conroy, Legislative Analyst, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6292, presented an overview of the department's FY18-19 budget.

Ms. Melissa Gannuch, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, and Ms. Lynnel Ruckert, Director of Administrative Services, Department of Justice, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 326-6079, discussed the impact of FY18-19 budget reductions on the department with Representatives Henry and Leger.

**Office of the Lieutenant Governor & Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism**

Mr. Mark Antoon, Budget Analyst, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2412, presented an overview of the department's FY18-19 budget.

Lieutenant Governor William H. Nungesser, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, 1051 North Third Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70702, (225) 342-7009, discussed the effects of budget reductions on the department with Representatives Henry, Billiot, Leger and Miguez.

Mr. Antoon explained certain means of financing categories within the department's budget to the committee.

Ms. Nancy Watkins, Undersecretary for the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, 1051 North Third Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70702, (225) 342-7009, discussed the types of Table

of Organization (T.O.) positions within the department and the Volunteer Louisiana Program with Representative Miguez.

### **Department of Agriculture and Forestry**

Mr. Nichols presented an overview of the FY18-19 budget for the department.

Commissioner Mike Strain, and Ms. Judy Fletcher, Deputy Undersecretary, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1290, discussed the department's fees and self-generated revenue collections and the number of funded vacancies with Representative Henry.

### **Department of Economic Development**

Mr. Henry presented an overview of the FY18-19 budget for the department.

Ms. Anne Villa, Undersecretary for the Department of Economic Development (LED), 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-5395, discussed the number of funded vacancies within the department and the amount of appropriated funding remaining at the end of the fiscal year with Representative Henry.

Ms. Villa and Ms. Mandi Mitchell, Assistant Secretary for LED, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-5395, discussed the impact of budget reduction on the department's regional offices with Representative Chaney.

Ms. Villa also discussed the amount of funding requested for the implementation of the State Civil Service pay plan with Representative Henry.

### **Youth Services**

Mr. Antoon presented an overview of the FY18-19 budget for the agency.

Dr. James Bueche, Deputy Secretary, Office of Juvenile Justice, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 287-7900, discussed the effects of FY18-19 budget reductions on the agency and the historical number of employee vacancies with Representative Henry.

Dr. Bueche provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

### **Department of Children and Family Services**

Mr. Nichols presented an overview of the department's FY18-19 budget.

Secretary Marketa Walters, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7475, discussed the major programs within the

department, historical budget reductions to the department's Child Welfare Program, and the impact of budget reductions on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) with Representative Leger.

Secretary Walters provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Secretary Walters discussed the employee configuration of the SNAP Program and the state's administrative cost to run the program with Representative Amedée.

Mr. Sammy Guillory, Deputy Assistant Secretary, DCFS, 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3961, discussed the effects of automated services on the department's employee configuration with Representative Amedée.

Mr. Guillory also described the federal guidelines on the types of commodities available for purchase through the SNAP Program with Representative Smith.

Dr. Eric Horent, Undersecretary, DCFS, 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1102, and Mr. Neal Underwood, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of Technology Services, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7105, discussed the cost and implementation of the department's integrated eligibility system with Representative Henry.

Secretary Walters discussed the impact of implementing the State Civil Service pay plan with Representative Smith.

The meeting recessed at 1:03 p.m. and reconvened at 1:53 p.m.

### **Department of Natural Resources**

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

Mr. Thomas Harris, Secretary, and Ms. Beverly Hodges, Undersecretary, Department of Natural Resources, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-8955, discussed the number of funded vacancies within the department with Representative Henry.

### **Louisiana Workforce Commission**

Mr. Nichols presented an overview of the department's FY18-19 budget.

Mr. Benny Soulier, Undersecretary, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 North Twenty-third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3111, discussed the number of funded vacancies within the department with Representative Henry.

### **Special Schools and Commissions**

Mr. Tim Mathis, Budget Analyst, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9101, presented an overview of the FY18-19 budgets for the agencies contained within the department.

#### **Louisiana School for the Deaf and Visually Impaired**

Mr. Ralph Thibodeaux, Superintendent of Louisiana Special Schools, 2888 Brightside Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 757-3200, discussed the amount of funds needed to restore the school's budget shortfall for FY18-19 and the impact of a budget shortfall with Representatives Henry and Smith.

#### **Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts**

Dr. Steve Horton, Executive Director of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA), 715 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA 71457, (800) 259-3173, discussed the impact of budget reductions on the school in FY18-19 with Representative Miguez.

#### **Louisiana Educational Television Authority**

Ms. Beth Courtney, President & Chief Executive Officer of Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB), 7733 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 767-4200, discussed the importance of restoring funding for LPB and the services provided with Representative Henry.

#### **Thrive Academy**

Ms. Sarah Broome, Executive Director of Thrive Academy, 2585 Brightside Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 367-6855, discussed the impact of budget reductions to the school with Representative Amedée.

#### **New Orleans Center for Creative Arts**

Ms. Lotte Delaney, Chief Financial Officer for the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), 2800 Chartres Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 940-2826, addressed the committee regarding the impact of budget reductions to the school.

#### **Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Ms. Shan Davis, Executive Director of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0487, discussed the impact of budget reductions to the board with the committee.

### **Department of Education**

Mr. Mathis presented an overview of the department's FY18-19 budget.

Dr. John White, Superintendent for the Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (877) 453-2721, discussed certain reductions within the FY18-19 budget with Representative Henry.

Dr. White provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

### **District Attorneys and Assistant District Attorneys**

Mr. Conroy presented an overview of the supplemental funding provided for state district attorneys, assistant district attorneys, and constables.

Mr. E. Pete Adams, Executive Director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 1645 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-0171; Mr. Ricky Babin, District Attorney, 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District, P.O. Drawer 750, Donaldsonville, LA 70346, (225) 473-6777; and Mr. Bo Duhé, District Attorney, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, 300 Iberia Street, Suite 200, New Iberia, LA 70560, (337) 369-4420, discussed the effects of FY18-19 budget reductions on their respective agencies with Representatives Henry and Hodges.

Mr. Adams also discussed supplemental funds received from local governmental entities with Representatives Henry and Smith.

### **Constables**

Ms. Cindy Bishop, Louisiana Association of Justices of the Peace and Constables, P.O. Box 80053, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, (no telephone number provided) discussed the effects of the FY18-19 budget with Representative Henry.

The meeting recessed at 2:41 p.m. and reconvened at 6:45 p.m.

### **House Bill No. 5 by Representative Leger**

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 5, which provides for effectiveness of Section 19.A of Act No. 2 of the 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Session.

Representative Leger offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 5. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 5 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

**House Bill No. 7 by Representative Smith**

Representative Smith presented House Bill No. 7, which provides for effectiveness of Section 19.A of Act No. 2 of the 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Session.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 7 favorably, to which Representative Miguez objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 16 nays. Representatives Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Leger, Miller, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Edmonds, Falconer, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Richard, and Zeringue voted nay.

Representative Henry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 7. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 7 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 22 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

**House Bill No. 6 by Representative Foil**

Representative Foil presented House Bill No. 6, which provides for effectiveness of Section 19.A of Act No. 2 of the 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Session.

Representative Henry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 6. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 6 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 22 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 1, which makes supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

Representative Henry offered a set of in-globo amendments, as well as a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 22 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Henry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1 with amendments, to which Representative Miller objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 1 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 4 nays.



Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Richard, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Carter, Leger, Miller, and Smith voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 for information only.

#### **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 22 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Harris, Hensgens, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry  
House Committee on Appropriations