

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2019 Regular Session
April 1, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:12 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 Julie Emerson
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 Dustin Miller
Representative Scott M. Simon
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative James K. Armes, III
Representative Steve E. Pylant

Representative Jerome Richard
Representative Katrina R. Jackson, Interim Member
Representative Julie Stokes, Interim Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Alexis Normand, Attorney
Ms. Adrienne Wood, Attorney
Ms. Jane Schoen, Secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Ms. Faye Talbot, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION

Chairman Henry presented and discussed the technical corrections to the Preamble to House Bill No. 1 of the 2019 Regular Session.

Mr. Patrick Goldsmith, Director of the House Fiscal Division (HFD), 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2440, presented the organizational portion of the meeting and an overview of House Bill No. 105.

House Bill No. 105 by Representative Henry

The following agencies contained in House Bill No. 105 were presented and discussed:

Executive Department

Mr. Chris Henry, Budget Analyst, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1394, presented an overview and discussed the FY19-20 budgets for the agencies contained within the Executive Department.

Mr. Henry, Mr. Goldsmith, and Mr. Barry Dussé, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-120, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7005, discussed the Executive Department's FY 19-20 expenditure trends, excess budget authority, and carry forward fund balances with Representatives Bacala, Billiot, Leger, Smith, and Zeringue.

Mr. Henry discussed the Avoyelles Parish Local Government Gaming Mitigation Fund with Representative Amedée.

Mr. Goldsmith discussed the Revenue Estimating Conference's (REC) revenue forecasts with Representative Billiot.

Mr. Tim Mathis, Budget Analyst, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9101, discussed the projected allocation of Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) funds with Representative Smith.

Division of Administration

Commissioner Jay Dardenne, Division of Administration (DOA), 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, discussed the REC forecasts used in House Bill No. 105 with Representatives Henry and Bacala. The commissioner also provided a handout, Exhibit A, which was not discussed.

Ms. Desireé Honoré Thomas, Assistant Commissioner, DOA, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, discussed the division's funded vacancies and the Restore Louisiana Program with Representative Amedée.

Ms. Honore Thomas and Mr. Richard Howze, Chief Information Officer, Office of Technology Services (OTS), 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0907, discussed a time line for completing state agency migration to the LaGov System with Representative Amedée.

Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District (LSED)

Mr. Evan Holmes, Director of Business Operations, and Mr. David Weidler, Director of Finance, SMG New Orleans, 1500 Sugar Bowl Drive, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 587-3913, discussed the agency's end of year fund balances with Representative Berthelot.

Office of the State Inspector General

Mr. Henry presented an overview and discussed the agency's FY19-20 budget.

Mental Health Advocacy Service

Mr. Joseph Seyler, Director, Mental Health Advocacy Service, 627 North Fourth Street, Suite I-322, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6678, and Ms. Honore Thomas discussed the agency's FY19-20 budget increases and the services provided with Representatives Henry and Hodges. Mr. Seyler discussed the increase in child advocacy cases with Representative Smith.

Louisiana Tax Commission

Mr. Henry presented an overview and discussed the commission's FY19-20 budget.

Representative Foil in the chair.

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)

Mr. Bren Haase, Executive Director, CPRA, 100 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 276-3376, discussed CPRA's coastal master plan with Representative Bagley and discussed the repayment of federal funds for implementation of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) with Representative Billiot.

Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Henry presented an overview and discussed the agency's FY19-20 budget.

Department of Military Affairs

Adjutant General Glen H. Curtis, Louisiana National Guard, 304 F Street, Pineville, LA 71360, (318) 613-5313, discussed Camp Minden's burn chamber with Representative Chaney.

Adjutant General Curtis discussed the reduction of funds to the Youth Challenge Program with Representative McFarland and discussed the Job Challenge Program with Representative Smith.

Louisiana Public Defender Board

Mr. Henry discussed the board's statutory dedications with Representative Carter.

Ms. Tiffany Simpson, Director of Legislative Affairs, and Mr. James T. Dixon, Jr., State Public Defender, Louisiana Public Defender Board, 301 Main Street, Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 219-9305, discussed adequate funding levels needed for public defenders and the board's source of funding with Representatives Billiot, Carter, and Smith.

Representative Miguez in the chair.

Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement

Mr. Jim Craft, Executive Director for the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1560, discussed the reduction of funding to the Truancy Center and post training requirements with Representative Smith.

Office of Elderly Affairs

Ms. Karen Ryder, Executive Director of the Office of Elderly Affairs, 525 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 342-7100, and Mr. Henry discussed the reduction of the agency's Table of Organization (T.O.) positions with Representative Chaney. Ms. Ryder also discussed the allocation of funds to local Councils on Aging with Representative Miguez.

Louisiana State Racing Commission

Mr. Henry presented an overview and discussed the commission's FY19-20 budget.

Office of Financial Institutions

Mr. Sidney Seymour, Chief Examiner, Depository Section, and Mr. Darin Domingue, Chief Examiner, Non-Depository Section, Office of Financial Institutions, 8660 United Plaza Blvd., Second Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4660, discussed plans for the agency's unfilled vacancies and retention rate with Representative Miguez.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Miguez announced that the Appropriations Committee would meet on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Bagley 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, Gary Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Foil, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations