

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2019 Regular Session  
April 29, 2019

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

Representative Cameron Henry, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Cameron Henry, chairman  
Representative Franklin J. Foil, vice 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 Charles R. Chaney  
Representative Julie Emerson  
Representative Lance Harris  
Representative Valarie Hodges  
Representative Walt Leger, III  
Representative Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative Dustin Miller  
Representative Steve E. Pylant  
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith  
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative James K. Armes, III  
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.  
Representative Rick Edmonds  
Representative Reid Falconer  
Representative Jerome Richard  
Representative Scott M. Simon

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alexis Normand, attorney  
Adrienne Wood, attorney  
Jane Schoen, secretary

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms  
Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 291 by Representative Barras**

Representative Barras presented House Bill No. 291, a constitutional amendment, which pertains to the dedication of unclaimed property funds and the creation of the Louisiana Unclaimed Property Permanent Trust Fund and Louisiana Unclaimed Property Support Fund.

Treasurer John Schroder, 900 North 900 Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 291.

Ms. Rachel Kinkaid, Treasury Dept., 900 North Third Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 291.

Ms. Nancy Keaton, Chief of Staff, Treasury Dept., 900 North Third Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 291.

Representative Leger offered amendments to change "the state capital outlay revolving loan bank" to "the unclaimed property revolving loan commission". Representative Leger 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, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Lance Harris offered a motion to report House Bill No. 291 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 291 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Emerson, Lance Harris, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, and Zeringue voted yea.

**House Bill No. 292 by Representative Barras**

Representative Barras presented House Bill No. 292, the dedication of unclaimed property funds and creation of Louisiana Unclaimed Property Permanent Trust Fund and Louisiana Unclaimed Property Support Fund.

Representative Henry offered amendments to change "the state capital outlay revolving loan bank" to "the unclaimed property revolving loan commission". Representative Henry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Emerson, Lance Harris, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Lance Harris offered a motion to report House Bill No. 292 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 292 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Emerson, Lance Harris, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, 1 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 576 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 576, which authorizes the Board of Regents to carryover funds on behalf of LUMCON and LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network.

Mr. Terrence Ginn, Deputy Commissioner, Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4253, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 576.

Dr. Craig McClain, LUMCON, (no address provided), (919) 627-2260, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 576.

Representative Lance Harris offered a motion to report House Bill No. 576 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 576 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Emerson, Lance Harris, Leger, McFarland, 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. 120 by Representative Bourriaque**

Representative Bourriaque presented House Bill No. 120, which transfers monies in the Shrimp Trade Petition Account into the Shrimp Marketing and Promotion Fund.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 120 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 120 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Emerson, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Pylant, Smith, 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. 84 by Representative White**

Representative White presented House Bill No. 84, which to provide for funds collected from boat registration fees.

Mr. Cole Garrett, Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 84.

Representative Billiot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 84 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 84 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Emerson, Lance Harris, Hodges, McFarland, 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. 378 by Representative James**

Representative James presented House Bill No. 378, which provides relative to the creation of digitized credentials.

Ms. Staci Hoyt, Office of Motor Vehicles, 7070 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (225) 270-1558, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 378.

Mr. Alton Ashy, Envoc, 218 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 344-1177, spoke in support of House Bill No. 378.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 378 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 378 was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry,

Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Emerson, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 245 by Representative Hodges**

Representative Hodges presented House Bill No. 245, which authorizes a public entity to reject the lowest bid on a procurement contract when a vendor engages in a boycott of Israel.

Representative Ted James, District 101, 445 North 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-3633, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 245.

Representative Henry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 245 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 245 was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Emerson, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 194 by Representative Brass**

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 194, which provides for a technical correction to the definition of "private procurement unit" for purposes of the Louisiana Procurement Code.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 194 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 194 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Emerson, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, and Smith 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 5 by Representative Barras**

On behalf of Speaker Barras, Representative Henry presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 5, which provides for a hospital stabilization formula.

Representative Henry offered amendments to: (1) expand the exclusions from the valuation of the total assessment for state fiscal year 2019-2020 for the state portion of cost reimbursement

enhancements to supplemental payments and quality programs; and (2) require LDH to operate under the current waiver approved by CMS effective Jan. 1, 2017, until LDH receives approval for waivers seeking exclusion of facilities prohibited from participating in the Medicare program, in accordance with HCR 6 of the 2018 Regular Session.

Representative Henry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Emerson, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, and Smith voted yeas.

Ms. Jennifer McMahon, Executive Director, Metropolitan Hospital Council of New Orleans, 2450 Severn Avenue, Ste. 210, Metairie, LA 70001, (504) 837-1171, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 5.

Representative Henry offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 5 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 5 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Emerson, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, and Smith voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 486 by Representative Gary Carter**

Representative Gary Carter presented House Bill No. 486, which allows for the use of the Budget Stabilization Fund for the state costs associated with a declared disaster.

Representative Henry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 486. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 486 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Emerson, Lance Harris, Hodges, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Pylant, and Smith voted yeas.

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

#### **IV. BUSINESS**

Discussion of the appropriations proposed and public testimony on House Bill No. 105 of the 2019 Regular Session:

**Louisiana Department of Health**

Ms. Cindy Rives, Chief Financial Officer, Louisiana Dept. of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 105.

Mr. Steve Russo, Executive Counsel, Louisiana Dept. of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 105.

Mr. Lynn Blanchart, Affiliated Blind of Louisiana, 409 West St. Mary Street, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 234-6492, spoke in support of House Bill No. 105.

**Department of Children and Family Services**

Ms. Susan East Nelson, La. Partnership for Children & Families, 13609 Landmark Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 229-2498, spoke in support of House Bill No. 105.

Dr. Daniel Mintz, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Ste. 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (786) 374-6626, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 105.

Ms. Erin Brock, (no address or phone number provided) hunger policy advocate for food banks across south Louisiana, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 105.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Pylant offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Emerson, Lance Harris, Hodges, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Pylant, and Smith voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry  
House Committee on Appropriations