

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2019 Regular Session
May 6, 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.

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 Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Reid Falconer
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 Scott M. Simon
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative James K. Armes, III
Representative Charles R. Chaney
Representative Jerome Richard

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. 105 by Representative Henry**

Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 105, which provides for the ordinary operating expenses of state government for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Representative Henry provided handouts, Exhibits A through Exhibits E, which are included in the committee records.

Representative Henry offered amendments to that change the appropriated amounts of various departments, including increases from the increased Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) projections and decreases to remove excess authority. Representative Henry 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, Edmonds, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Leger offered amendments to allocate the available revenues recognized by REC at the last meeting of \$119 million. The original House Bill No. 103 recognized as the governor's proposed budget presented to the legislature earlier this year included \$134 million of state general fund and additional revenues recognized. Although the Division of Administration's economists recognize \$139 million, the Legislative Fiscal Office recognized \$119 million, and the REC adopted that; a \$115 million number reduction was required in various departments in order to enact that. These amendments would provide a .41 reduction to all departments that are impacted across the board. The amendments are needed to restore the basic funding for the state-wide adjustments and other priorities. Representative Leger offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Henry objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas and 17 nays. Representatives Billiot, Leger, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Henry,

Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, and Zeringue voted nay.

Representative Henry offered a motion to allow staff the ability to make technical corrections to the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report House Bill No. 105 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 105 was reported with amendments by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Henry offered a motion to make House Bill No. 105 Special Order for May 9, 2019. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support; 2 for information only.

House Bill No. 148 by Representative Henry

Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 148, which appropriates funds for the expenses of the judiciary for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Representative Henry offered amendments to: (1) provide an additional \$250,000 for the legal representation of children in child protection cases; and (2) add requirement that appropriations from State General Funds (Direct) contained in this Act be reduced by a total amount of \$9,492,980 pursuant to a plan adopted by the Judicial Budgetary Control Board or as approved by the La. Supreme Court.

Representative Henry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Justice Jeff Hughes, Supreme Court, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, no phone number provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 148, and provided two handouts, Exhibit F and Exhibit G, which are included in the committee records.

Mr. Bryan Wolff, Supreme Court, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 273-3551, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 148.

Representative Foil offered a motion to allow staff the ability to make technical corrections to the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report House Bill No. 148 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 148 was reported with amendments by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Henry offered a motion to make House Bill No. 148 Special Order for May 9, 2019. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only.

House Bill No. 122 by Representative Henry

Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 122, which provides for Revenue Sharing Distribution for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report House Bill No. 122 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 122 was reported favorably by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Henry offered a motion to make House Bill No. 122 Special Order for May 9, 2019. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 598 by Representative Barras

On behalf of Speaker Barras, Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 598, which makes appropriations for the expenses of the legislature for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Representative Henry offered amendments to: (1) reduce the appropriation by \$11,620,925.00 pursuant to a plan adopted by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council; and (2) to make technical corrections. Representative Henry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Henry offered a motion to allow staff the ability to make technical corrections to the amendments on House Bill No. 598. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report House Bill No. 598 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 598 was reported with amendments by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Henry offered a motion to make House Bill No. 598 Special Order for May 9, 2019. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 109 by Representative Henry

Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 109, which provides for the ancillary expenses of state government.

Ms. Desirée Honoré Thomas, Division of Administration, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225)342-7000, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 109.

Mr. Tommy Teague, Office of Group Benefits, P. O. Box 44036, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-9670, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 109.

Mr. Bill Guerra, Financial Administrator, Office of Group Benefits, no address or phone number provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 109.

Representative Henry offered amendments to: (1) reduce \$2,000,000 of excess budget authority from fees and self-generated revenues in Prison Enterprises; (2) reduce \$25,000,000 of excess budget authority from statutory dedications in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program.

Representative Henry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Foil offered a motion to allow staff the ability to make technical corrections on amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Lance Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, and Simon voted yea.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report House Bill No. 109 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 109 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Lance Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, and Simon voted yea.

Representative Henry offered a motion to make House Bill No. 109 Special Order for May 9, 2019. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Lance Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, and Simon voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 for information only.

IV. BUSINESS

Non Governmental Late Requests as provided by R.S. 39:51.1.

Representative Henry offered a motion to review and approve late requests submitted by non-governmental organizations, as provided by R.S. 39:51.1. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Edmonds, Falconer, Lance Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Henry voluntarily deferred House Bill No. 286, House Bill No. 392, and House Bill No. 472 until tomorrow's meeting upon adjournment of the House.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Foil offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Abraham, Amedée, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Lance Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, and Simon voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations