

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2019 Regular Session
May 28, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 11:09 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 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 Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Charles R. Chaney
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Reid Falconer
Representative Lance Harris
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 Mark Abraham
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Jerome Richard

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 27 by Senator Martiny**

Senator Martiny presented Senate Bill No. 27, which provides relative to salaries for judges as recommended by the Judicial Compensation Commission.

Chief Judge Bob Morrison, LA District Judges Association, P. O. Box 788, Amite, LA 70422, (985) 748-9445, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 27.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 27 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 27 was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Amedée, Armes, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Pylant, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 153 by Senator Martiny

Senator Martiny presented Senate Bill No. 153, which provides relative to sports wagering.

Representative Joseph A. Marino, District 85, 200 Derbigny Street, Suite 4300, Gretna, LA 70053, (504) 361-6013, answered questions on amendments, third party providers, regulations, and restrictions, and spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 153.

Representative Billiot offered amendments to delete House committee amendments by the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice (#3080) and removed provisions regarding civil penalties as well as sports-wagering proceeds distributed to pari-mutuel wagering facilities and the horse breeding industry. After further discussion, Representative Billiot withdrew the amendments. No vote was taken.

Representative McFarland offered amendments to: (1) outline persons prohibited from placing sports wagers; (2) provided regulations as to the source of sports book statistics; (3) established the requirement that the La. Gaming Control Board regulate contracts among certificate holders and sports organizations; (4) defined sports organizations; (5) established regulations regarding the types of wagers and types of events in which sports wagering is permitted, and other various regulations.

Representative McFarland 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, Amedée, Armes, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Mr. Ronnie Johns, Chairman, La. Gaming Control Board, 7901 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-1846, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 153.

Representative Dustin Miller offered amendments to allowed for sports wagering in casino, river boat, eligible facilities, licensed establishments, or the official gaming establishments. Representative Dustin Miller 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, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Billiot, Gary Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Billiot resubmitted a new set of amendments to delete House committee amendments by the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice (#3080) and removed provisions regarding civil penalties as well as sports-wagering proceeds distributed to pari-mutuel wagering facilities and the horse breeding industry. Representative Billiot 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, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Billiot, Gary Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Mr. Wade Duty, Executive Director, La. Casino Association, P.O. Box 3801, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-0037, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 153.

Dr. Will Hall, Director, La. Baptist Office of Public Policy, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71309, (318) 449-4348, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 153.

Mr. James, Rodgers, Hermesoft, 100 Poydras Street, Suite 3200, (no further address or phone number provided) spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 153.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 153, to which Representative Smith objected. Representative Leger offered a substitute motion to report Senate Bill No. 153 with amendments. The secretary called the roll, and the substitute motion to

report with amendments failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 15 nays. Representatives Armes, Billiot, Gary Carter, Leger, Dustin Miller, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Henry, Foil, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Chaney, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, and Zeringue voted nay.

The original motion to involuntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 153 was considered. The secretary called the roll, and action on Senate Bill No. 153 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Amedée, Bacala, Berthelot, Chaney, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, and Simon voted yea. Representatives Armes, Billiot, Gary Carter, Dustin Miller, Smith, and Zeringue voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support, 6 in opposition, and 5 for information only.

House Bill No. 595 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 595, which establishes an income tax credit for contributions to certain foster care charitable organizations.

Representative Henry offered amendments to specify the information that the foster care organization must provide in order to qualify for the credit; requires the mission for the report prepared by an independent CPA to the DOR that includes specific information regarding the donor and donation and deletes a child for/that significant risk of entering a foster care replacement program from the definition of qualified individual.

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, Foil, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Emerson, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, and Zeringue voted yea.

Mr. Luke Morris, Assistant Secretary, Dept. of Revenue, P.O. Box 66258, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (225) 219-4059, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 595.

Representative Foil offered a motion to report House Bill No. 595 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 595 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Emerson, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, 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.

Senate Bill No. 216 by Senator Chabert

On behalf of Senator Chabert, Representative Jack McFarland presented Senate Bill No. 216, which creates the State Land Office Reforestation Fund.

Mr. Jonathan Robillard, Office State Land Administrator, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4578, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 216.

Representative McFarland offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 216 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 216 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Emerson, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 174 by Senator Johns

On behalf of Senator Johns, Representative Henry presented Senate Bill No. 174, which provides relative to the annual appropriation for the councils on aging.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 174 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 174 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Emerson, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 96 by Senator Hewitt

On behalf of Senator Hewitt, Representative Rick Edmonds presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 96, which urges and requests the Revenue Estimating Conference to consider including all dedicated funds and fees and self-generated revenues in the projection of money available for appropriation in the long-range forecast.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 96 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 96 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Emerson, McFarland, Miguez, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

IV. BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Henry announced there would be a committee dinner for Appropriations members this evening, upon adjournment of the House.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Armes offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Foil, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Lance Harris, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, Simon, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations