

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
March 4, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The committee administrative assistant called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley, interim member
Representative R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr., vice chairman
Representative Raymond J. Crews
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Mary DuBuisson
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Lance Harris
Representative John R. Illg, Jr.
Representative Frederick Douglass Jones
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Francis C. Thompson
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter

Representative Valarie Hodges, interim member
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative C. Denise Marcelle

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Katie Andress, committee administrative assistant
Stephanie Little, attorney
Amanda Trapp, legislative analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION

House Bill No. 105 by Representative Zeringue

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

Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and Lieutenant Governor

Ms. Christina Perrault, budget analyst, House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2412, presented an overview and discussed the FY 21 budgets for the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT) and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Lt. Governor William "Billy" Nungesser, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7009, discussed the department's efforts to promote Louisiana across the country, funding for the State Library, improvements to state parks, improvements to arts programs, and certain functions of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

Ms. Nancy Watkins, undersecretary, CRT, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-8201, Mr. Travis McIlwain, director, Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-120, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7005, and the Lt. Governor discussed the need for excess budget authority within the department with Representatives Zeringue and Bacala.

Lt. Governor Nungesser also discussed the seafood certification program with Representative Zeringue, and Lt. Governor Nungesser discussed his plan for promoting the state's world heritage site with Representative Thompson.

Mr. McIlwain discussed the OPB's budgeting process and funded vacancies with Representative Bacala.

Ms. Watkins discussed reducing the department's excess budget authority and Lt. Governor Nungesser discussed certain improvements to state parks and historical sites with Representative Miguez.

Lt. Governor Nungesser and Ms. Kristin Sanders, assistant secretary, Office of Cultural Development, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3200, discussed grant funding for arts programs with Representatives DuBuisson and Freeman.

Ms. Watkins and Lt. Governor Nungesser discussed funding to consolidate the Lt. Governor's communications staff with Representative DuBuisson.

Lt. Governor Nungesser discussed Louisiana's seafood certification program with Representative Kerner.

Lt. Governor Nungesser, Mr. Brandon Burris, director, Office of State Parks, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-8111, and Mr. Steven Maklansky, director, Office of State Museums, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 568-6968, discussed visitor trends at the state's historical sites, museums, and state parks with Representative Illg.

Lt. Governor Nungesser discussed promotion of the Essence Festival in New Orleans with Representative Carter. The Lt. Governor and Mr. Burris also discussed the utilization of state parks and the reopening of the Jimmie Davis State Park with Representative McFarland.

Public Service Commission

Ms. Perrault presented an overview and discussed the commission's FY 21 budget.

Mr. Brandon Frey, executive secretary, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 91154, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 342-5163, presented an overview of the functions and operations of the commission and discussed the commission's FY 21 budget.

Mr. Frey discussed streaming commission meetings online with Representative Zeringue and discussed the drop in fines for spoof calls and the Do Not Call program with Representative Lyons.

Mr. Frey also discussed the commission's funded vacancies with Representative Crews.

Representative Carter in the chair.

Mr. Frey discussed trends in consumer complaints with Representative Wheat and discussed fee collections for the 911 Program with Representative DuBuisson.

Mr. Frey and Mr. McIlwain discussed the commission's statutory dedication collections and revenue projections with Representative Bacala.

Mr. Frey discussed the regulation of collect calls in correctional facilities with Representative Carter.

Department of Revenue

Mr. Chris Henry, budget analyst, HFD, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1394, presented an overview and discussed the department's FY 21 budget.

Secretary Kimberly L. Robinson, Department of Revenue, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-4059, introduced the staff to the committee and discussed the Office of Charitable Gaming's functions with Representative Carrier.

Secretary Robinson discussed the functions of the Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control and proper training of volunteers who sell alcohol at fairs and festivals with Representative Freeman. The secretary also discussed the agency's regulation of CBD retailers with Representatives Deshotel and Freeman.

Secretary Robinson discussed penalties and fees on tax collections with Representative Deshotel.

Secretary Robinson, Mr. Henry, and Mr. Kevin Richard, deputy secretary, Department of Revenue, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-4059, discussed operations and functions of the Office of Debt Recovery with Representatives Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, and Freeman.

Secretary Robinson discussed ways to incorporate more technology to help answer taxpayer questions and funds for with Representative Crews. The secretary and Mr. Henry discussed the need for funds for certain improvement projects with Representative Crews.

Mr. Richard and Secretary Robinson discussed functions of the Office of Charitable Gaming with Representatives Crews and Wheat.

Secretary Robinson explained the meaning and purpose of judicial interest to Representative DuBuisson.

Secretary Robinson discussed the department's funded vacancies with Representative Wheat. The secretary also discussed procedures to exclude military personnel stationed overseas from tax debt collections with Representative Crews.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Carter made an announcement regarding the schedule for the following week.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 22 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Bagley, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations