

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2020 Regular Session  
May 4, 2020

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

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 10:51 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 Roy Daryl Adams  
Representative Tony Bacala  
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter  
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 Timothy P. Kerner  
Representative Rodney Lyons  
Representative Tanner D. Magee  
Representative Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative Troy D. Romero  
Representative Francis C. Thompson  
Representative Christopher Turner  
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Frederick Douglass Jones  
Representative C. Denise Marcelle  
Representative Dustin Miller

**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 OF LEGISLATION**

The chairman addressed the committee regarding the safety protocols set forth due to COVID-19.

**House Bill No. 267 by Representative Gary Carter**

Representative Gary Carter presented House Bill No. 267, a constitutional amendment which allows for the use of the Budget Stabilization Fund for state costs associated with a federally declared disaster.

Representative Miguez offered a motion to report House Bill No. 267 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 267 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

**House Bill No. 269 by Representative Gary Carter**

Representative Gary Carter presented House Bill No. 269, which allows for the use of the Budget Stabilization Fund for state costs associated with a federally declared disaster.

Representative Bacala offered technical amendments. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 269 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 269 was reported with amendments by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

*Representative Gary Carter in the chair.*

### **House Bill No. 412 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 412, which expands the authorized uses of monies in the State Emergency Response Fund.

Representative Gary Carter offered a technical amendment. Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to adopt the amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 412 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 412 was reported with amendments by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

*Representative Zeringue in the chair.*

### **House Bill No. 445 by Representative Schexnayder**

On behalf of Representative Schexnayder, Representative Stefanski presented House Bill No. 445, a constitutional amendment to dedicate unclaimed property funds and to create the Louisiana Unclaimed Property Permanent Trust Fund.

Treasurer John Schroder, Louisiana State Treasury, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0010, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 445.

Representative Zeringue offered technical amendments. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 445 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 445 was reported with amendments by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 536 by Representative Schexnayder**

On behalf of Representative Schexnayder, Representative Stefanski presented House Bill No. 536, which dedicates unclaimed property funds and creates the Louisiana Unclaimed Property Permanent Trust Fund.

Representative Zeringue offered technical amendments. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 536 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 536 was reported with amendments by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 562 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 562, which provides relative to the allocation of expenditures of the state operating budget.

Representative Zeringue offered a technical amendment. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Kerner, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 562 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 562 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Kerner, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 653 by Representative Garofalo**

On behalf of Representative Garofalo, Ms. Rachel Kincaid, Deputy State Treasurer, Louisiana State Treasury, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0010, presented House Bill No. 653, which provides relative to requirements for reporting and advertising unclaimed property.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to remove the provision in the proposed law that would have required holders of presumed abandoned property with a value of \$10 or more to attempt to notify the owner. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Kerner, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 653 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 653 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Kerner, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 691 by Representative Lyons**

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 691, which reinstates the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund and program.

Ms. Karyn Andrews, Undersecretary, Department of Environmental Quality, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-3845, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 691.

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 691 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 691 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

*Representative Gary Carter in the chair.*

### **House Bill No. 758 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 758, which provides relative to payments under public contract.

Mr. Windell A. Curole, General Manager, South Lafourche Levee District, P.O. Box 426, Galliano, LA 70354, (985) 632-7554, spoke in support of House Bill No. 758.

Mr. Reggie Dupré, Executive Director, Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District, 220 Clendenning Road, #A, Houma, LA 70363, (985) 868-8523, spoke in support of House Bill No. 758.

Mr. Derrell Cohoon, Louisiana Associated General Contractors, 714 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 921-5233, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 758.

Ms. Doreen Brasseaux, President, American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana, 9643 Brookline Avenue, Suite 112, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 927-7704, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 758.

Mr. Mitchell Marmande, Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District, 351 Tiger Lily Drive, Houma, LA 70360, (985) 655-3000, spoke in support of House Bill No. 758.

Representative Thompson offered amendments to grant limited authority to waive prompt payment obligations by contract for liquidated or delay damages. Representative Thompson offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Magee, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 758 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 758 was reported with amendments by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Magee, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

***Representative Zeringue in the chair.***

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**IV. BUSINESS**

COMMITTEE ROOM 6 TO BE USED FOR OVERFLOW

**Budget and Revenue Update**

**Presentations by Greg Albrecht (Chief Economist, Legislative Fiscal Office), Manfred Dix (Chief Economist, Division of Administration), Dr. Stephen Barnes (Director of Kathleen Blanco Public Policy Center at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette)**

Dr. Stephen Barnes, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 635 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 482-5014, discussed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the state's economy and unemployment trends with Representatives Bacala, Carter, Deshotel, and Edmonds. Dr. Barnes also provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Greg Albrecht, Chief Economist, Legislative Fiscal Office, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7233, discussed state revenue forecast projections with Representatives Zeringue, Carter, and Illg.

Mr. Manfredo Dix, Economist, Office of Planning and Budget, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-150, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7005, discussed the state's economic recovery projections with Representatives Zeringue and Bacala.

**Presentation by Division of Administration**

Commissioner Jay Dardenne, Division of Administration, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, discussed the state's cost share with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the distribution of CARES Act funds to state agencies and local entities with Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, Carrier, Carter, Deshotel, Edmonds, Freeman and Illg.

Commissioner Dardenne discussed the department's efforts to maintain the state's workforce in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the pandemic's impact on the private sector with Representative Crews.

Commissioner Dardenne also discussed the cost to build a temporary medical facility in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center with Representatives Freeman and Illg.

Commissioner Dardenne discussed increased to the Federal Medical Assistance Program (FMAP) and increased enrollment in the Medicaid Program with Representatives Bacala and Edmonds. The commissioner also discussed funding for certain capital outlay projects with Representative Bacala.

Commissioner Dardenne and Mr. J. Travis McIlwain, Director, Office of Planning and Budget, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-150, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7005, discussed ways in which to allocate funds from the Budget Stabilization Fund with Representatives Carpenter and Romero.

**Presentation by Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness**

Mr. James Waskom, Director, and Mr. Casey Tingle, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), 7667 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-7500, presented an overview of the agency's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

***Representative Gary Carter in the chair.***

Mr. Waskom discussed hurricane preparations during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Mr. Tingle discussed FEMA funding for technology upgrades with Representative Carter.

***Representative Zeringue in the chair.*****V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Persons who do not feel comfortable giving testimony in person at this time may submit a prepared statement in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee:

A. Any interested person or any committee member may file with the committee a prepared statement concerning a specific instrument or matter under consideration by the committee or concerning any matter within the committee's scope of authority, and the committee records shall reflect receipt of such statement and the date and time thereof.

B. Any person who files a prepared statement which contains data or statistical information shall include in such prepared statement sufficient information to identify the source of the data or statistical information. For the purposes of this Paragraph, the term "source" shall mean a publication, website, person, or other source from which the data or statistical information contained in the prepared statement was obtained by the person or persons who prepared the statement.

NOTE: Only statements mailed to [andressk@legis.la.gov](mailto:andressk@legis.la.gov) and received prior to noon on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be included in the record for this committee meeting. All persons desiring to participate in the meeting shall utilize appropriate protective health measures and observe the recommended and appropriate social distancing.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Magee, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue  
House Committee on Appropriations