

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
May 5, 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 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 Frederick Douglass Jones
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 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**House Bill No. 464 by Representative Beaulieu**

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 464, a constitutional amendment which provides for changes in the expenditure limit calculation.

Representative Romero offered amendments to remove the provision of the proposed law that would have allowed the legislature to change the expenditure limit when not in session by mail-in ballot with consent of 2/3 of the membership of each house. Representative Romero offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Daniel Erspamer, chief executive officer, The Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, Suite 900, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 500-0506, spoke in support of House Bill No. 464.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 464 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 464 was reported with amendments by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat 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. 469 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 469, which provides for changes in the expenditure limit calculation.

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

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 469 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 469 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, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat 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. 8 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 8, which reduces the expenditure limit for FY 2020-2021.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 8 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 8 was reported favorably by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat 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 Bill No. 725 by Representative Marcelle

On behalf of Representative Marcelle, Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 725, which provides relative to telecommunication services to persons incarcerated in a correctional facility.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 725. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 725 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat 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. 281 by Representative Stagni

On behalf of Representative Stagni, Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 281, which authorizes the Fireman's Supplemental Pay Board to issue subpoenas.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 281. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 281 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 698 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 698, which provides procurement preference for goods manufactured and services performed by individuals with disabilities through supported employment providers.

Ms. Libby Murphy, chief executive officer, Louisiana Association for the Blind, 1826 Claiborne Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71103, (318) 635-6471, spoke in support of House Bill No. 698.

Mr. Jonathan Walker, Assistant Director, Office of State Procurement, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 2-160, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1038, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 698.

Representative Gary Carter offered amendments to: (1) make technical changes; (2) remove the division of administration from certain provisions of the bill; and (3) remove portions of the bill changing governance of the council. Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 22 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 698 with amendments, to which Representative Carrier objected. Representative Carrier offered a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 698.

After discussion, Representative Carrier withdrew his motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 698. Representative Carpenter also withdrew her motion to report House Bill No. 698 with amendments.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 698. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 698 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 22 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 31 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 31, which suspends a provision of law capping the amount of revenue which can be spent on in-state advertising.

Lt. Governor William H. Nungesser, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 31.

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 31 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 31 was reported favorably by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat 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 Bill No. 853 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 853, which establishes a Digital Content and Curriculum Fund to provide classrooms with digital content and curriculum.

Mr. Tim Mathis, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Office, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7233, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 853.

Representative Miguez offered a motion to report House Bill No. 853 favorably, with recommendation that it be recommitted to the House Committee on Education. Without objection, House Bill No. 853 was reported favorably by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat 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. 851 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 851, which provides for the use of federal funds for workforce training.

Ms. Camille Conaway, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 451 Florida Street, 11th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70893, (225) 620-5711, spoke in support of House Bill No. 851.

Dr. Monty Sullivan, President, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1643, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 851.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 851. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 851 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 118 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 118, which restricts spending of the state general fund (direct) from recurring money to 98% of the official forecast.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 118 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 118 was reported favorably by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

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

The meeting was recessed at 11:25 a.m. and reconvened at 1:19 p.m.

House Bill No. 477 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 477, which provides relative to technology procurement.

Representative Zeringue offered a technical amendment. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 477 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 477 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 465 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 465, a constitutional amendment which provides for laws relative to statutory dedications.

Representative Zeringue offered technical amendments. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 465 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 465 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

IV. BUSINESS

COMMITTEE ROOM 6 TO BE USED FOR OVERFLOW

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 and received prior to noon on Sunday, May 3rd, 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 Edmonds offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations