

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
May 11, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:06 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 John R. Illg, Jr.
Representative Frederick Douglass Jones
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Francis C. Thompson
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Lance Harris
Representative C. Denise Marcelle

Representative Blake Miguez
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 Concurrent Resolution No. 70 by Representative Schexnayder

On behalf of Representative Schexnayder, Representative Zeringue presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 70, which expresses support for the State and Municipal Aid for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Fund, proposed for the purpose of helping states and local governments respond to the current public health and economic crisis.

Representative Gary Carter offered technical amendments. Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 70 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 70 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 74 by Representative Schexnayder

On behalf of Representative Schexnayder, Representative Zeringue presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 74, which requests that CARES Act funding be made available to the state for testing and be distributed to healthcare systems.

Representative Gary Carter offered amendments which: (1) change the request from expediting the distribution of funding to La. healthcare systems to providing funding to La. private healthcare systems for COVID-19 testing; (2) remove language terminating legislative authority for the request; and (3) make technical changes. Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Gary Carter offered conceptual amendments to expand the requested funding to include any additional federal funding. Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Ms. Beverly Haydel, LA Economic Recovery Task Force, 2977 Fritchie Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (617) 335-9941, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 74.

Mr. Steve Russo, executive counsel, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 74.

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 74 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 74 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, DuBuisson, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

IV. BUSINESS

COMMITTEE ROOM 6 TO BE USED FOR OVERFLOW

Public Testimony on House Bill No. 105 of the 2020 Regular Session

Representative Zeringue indicated that the committee would hear public testimony regarding the appropriations proposed for the FY 20-21 budget, schedule by schedule.

Executive Department - Schedule 01

Ms. Lindsay Blouin, president, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 6358 Destrehan Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (504) 975-1329, spoke in support of House Bill No. 105.

Ms. Meghan Garvey, legislative chair, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 3043 Old Forge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (504) 343-7175, spoke in support of House Bill No. 105.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 31 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism - Schedule 06

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Louisiana Department of Health - Schedule 09

Ms. Kelly Monroe, The Arc of Louisiana, 600 Colonial Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 383-1033, spoke in support of House Bill No. 105.

Mr. Matthew Wallace, Easterseals Louisiana, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 720, New Orleans, LA 70112, (225) 888-6055, spoke in support of House Bill No. 105.

Ms. Caroline Meehan, executive director, Community Provider Association, P.O. Box 19571, New Orleans, LA 70179, (504) 298-9730, spoke in support of House Bill No. 105.

Mr. Thomas Mitchell, executive director, Child Advocacy Center - Hope House, 223 West 28th Avenue, Covington, LA 70433, (985) 892-3885, spoke in support of House Bill No. 105.

Ms. Kate Shipley, executive director, Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers, 1101 Calhoun Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (443) 895-2204, spoke in support of House Bill No. 105.

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

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 30 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Department of Children and Family Services - Schedule 10

Ms. Susan East Nelson, LA Partnership for Children and Families, 13609 Landmark Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 229-2498, spoke in support of House Bill No. 105.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 3 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Louisiana Workforce Commission - Schedule 14

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 17 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Department of Education - Schedule 19

Dr. Libbie Sonnier, executive director, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, P.O. Box 13552, New Orleans, LA 70185, (985) 687-7494, spoke in support of House Bill No. 105.

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

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 40 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Special Schools and Commissions - Schedule 19

Representative Beryl Amedée, District 51, 302 School Street, Houma, LA 70360, (985) 858-2967, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 105 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Dr. Kyle Wedberg, president and chief executive officer, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, 2800 Chartres Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 940-2900, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 105.

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

Other Requirements - Schedule 20

Ms. Anne Springer Jayes, Lighthouse Louisiana, 2773 North Flannery Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70814, (504) 239-2424, spoke in support of House Bill No. 105.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Zeringue announced the upcoming Joint House Committee on Appropriations and House Committee on Health and Welfare meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2020.

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 10th, 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 Turner 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, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations