

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2020 First Extraordinary Session  
June 3, 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 Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative Dustin Miller  
Representative Troy D. Romero  
Representative Francis C. Thompson  
Representative Christopher Turner  
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Lance Harris  
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  
Blaine Sylvester, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION****House Bill No. 1 by Representative Zeringue**

The following agencies contained in House Bill No. 1 were presented and discussed:

**Higher Education****Board of Regents**

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, commissioner, Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 6-200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4253, provided and discussed a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records. Dr. Reed also discussed utilizing funds from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF) for Higher Education and the Board of Regents' funding formula with Representative Zeringue.

Dr. Reed discussed Higher Education's FY 21 budget shortfall with Representative Edmonds and discussed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding allocated to each institution with Representatives Bacala, Carpenter, and Edmonds. Dr. Reed also discussed the state's digital divide with Representatives Carpenter, Deshotel, and DuBuisson.

Dr. Reed discussed budget reductions to those institutions that did not receive CARES Act funds with Representative Zeringue.

Mr. Terrence Guinn, deputy commissioner, Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 6-200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4253, and Dr. Reed discussed the distribution of state general funds in comparison to CARES Act funding with Representatives Zeringue and Bacala.

Dr. Reed discussed the impact of COVID-19 on college students with Representative Illg. Dr. Reed also discussed the composition of the universities' management board with Representative DuBuisson.

Dr. Reed and Mr. Guinn discussed the purchase of laptops for certain college students with Representative Romero. Dr. Reed also discussed the use of GEERF with Representative Romero.

Dr. Reed discussed potential cost savings realized during the pandemic with Representative Crews.

### **Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance**

Dr. Sujuan W. Boutte, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-7294, discussed certain programs administered by LOSFA with Representative DuBuisson.

### **Louisiana Technical and Community College System**

Dr. Monty Sullivan, president, Louisiana Technical and Community College System (LCTCS), 265 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1643, addressed the committee regarding the need for and importance of the LCTCS in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Reboot Louisiana Program.

Dr. Sullivan discussed the status of Louisiana Delta Community College and enrollment demographics across the state's community colleges with Representative Jones. Dr. Sullivan also discussed his view of the additional unemployment benefits provided by the federal government with Representative Romero.

Dr. Sullivan discussed costs associated with the safety measures put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and the importance of the LCTCS with Representative Illg. Dr. Sullivan also discussed funding issues within the LCTCS and the Reboot Louisiana Program with Representative DuBuisson.

Dr. Sullivan and Representative Crews discussed ways to fund training programs for those who have been incarcerated.

**Southern University System**

Dr. Ray Belton, president, Southern University System, Baton Rouge, LA 70813, (225) 771-4500, addressed the committee regarding the importance of the Southern University System and discussed the need for stable funding in FY 21 with Representative Jones.

Dr. Belton discussed the use of CARES Act funds and certain Capital Outlay projects with Representative Miller. Dr. Belton also discussed enrollment statistics for online summer and fall classes due to COVID-19 with Representative Illg.

Dr. Belton discussed using CARES Act funds to provide access to broadband internet and digital devices to Southern University students with Representatives Carpenter and Deshotel. Dr. Belton also discussed the measures taken to accommodate those Southern University System students who could not return home due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the use of CARES Act funds to offset student financial hardships with Representatives Carpenter and DuBuisson.

**Louisiana State University System**

Dr. Tom Galligan, interim president, Louisiana State University (LSU), 3810 West Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 578-2711, addressed the committee regarding LSU's financial challenges, accomplishments and aspirations.

Dr. William B. Richardson, vice president, LSU AgCenter, 101 Efferson Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, (225) 578-4161, addressed the committee regarding the AgCenter's financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. John Kirwan, executive director, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, 6400 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-2513, addressed the committee regarding the importance of Pennington and discussed the center's financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic with Representative Bacala. Dr. Kirwan also discussed the center's federal grants and the return on investment with Representative Zeringue.

Dr. Galligan discussed federal guidance for CARES Act funds issued to LSU students with Representative Wheat. Dr. Galligan also discussed the impact of financial losses at LSU's museums with Representatives Zeringue and Carpenter.

Dr. Galligan also discussed LSU's request for GEERF funding to offset financial losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic with Representative Bacala and discussed the impact of financial losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic on women's healthcare programs at LSU with Representatives Freeman and Miller.

Dr. Galligan discussed the amount received from medical marijuana sales with Representative Miller.

### **University of Lafayette System**

Dr. Jim Henderson, president, University of Lafayette (UL) System, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-300, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6950, presented a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records, and addressed the committee regarding the UL Systems' plan for the distribution of CARES Act funds to students and other COVID-19 related expenses.

Dr. Henderson discussed COVID-19 related expenditures for FY 21 for certain institutions within the UL System with Representative Bacala.

### **Louisiana Department of Health**

Ms. Cindy Rives, undersecretary, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, presented and discussed a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Ms. Rives and Ms. Ruth Johnson, Medicaid executive director, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, discussed additional enrollees to the Medicaid Program due to the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) rate increases with Representatives Bacala, Edmonds, and Miller. Mr. Rives also discussed the new hospital repayment model with Representatives Bacala, Edmonds and Miller.

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Pam Diez, deputy Medicaid director, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, and Ms. Rives discussed funding for Medicaid enrollees due to federal guidance regarding COVID-19 expenditures with Representative Bacala.

Mr. Mark Thomas, deputy secretary, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, discussed the cost savings associated with moving to a managed long-term supports and services model for the elderly population and provided nursing home facility statistics with Representatives Bacala and Miller.

Ms. Rives discussed the Managed Care Organization (MCO) medical loss ratio and discussed budget authority for the new hospital repayment plan with Representatives Zeringue, McFarland, and Miller.

Dr. Alex Billioux, assistant secretary, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, discussed contact tracing with Representative Crews.

Ms. Rives and Mr. Steve Russo, executive counsel, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, discussed hospital reimbursement rates and the proposed hospital repayment model with Representative Bacala.

Mr. Andrew Perrilloux, section chief, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, and Ms. Rives discussed the current hospital reimbursement model for Medicaid and Medicare patients with Representative Freeman.

Ms. Rives discussed reductions to certain Medicaid reimbursement plans with Representative Zeringue.

Dr. Courtney Phillips, secretary, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, addressed the committee regarding plans for the department, moving forward.

### **Office of Elderly Affairs**

Ms. Danielle Stafford, deputy assistant secretary, Office of Elderly Affairs, P.O. Box 61, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 342-7100, discussed changes to the department's FY 21 budget and changes to the agency's services due to the COVID-19 pandemic with Representatives Carter and Lyons.

*Representative Carter in the chair.*

### **Office of Technology Services**

Mr. Richard Howze, director, Office of Technology Services (OTS), 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, addressed the committee regarding the services provided by the agency.

Mr. Howze and Ms. Desireé Honoré Thomas, assistant secretary, Division of Administration (DOA), 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-100, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, discussed the agency's role in providing resources for those state employees who were working from home during the governor's stay at home order with Representative Deshotel.

Mr. Howze and Mr. Matthew Vince, director of project management, OTS, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9667, discussed the cost associated with and contract deliverables for the Department of Children and Family Services' integrated eligibility system upgrade with Representatives Bacala and Crews.

Mr. Howze and Ms. Thomas discussed the agency's efforts to do business with Louisiana-based businesses with Representatives Deshotel and Romero.

Ms. Thomas discussed the state's procurement process for technology services with Representative Crews.

#### **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](mailto:andressk@legis.la.gov) and received prior to Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 p.m., 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 Deshotel offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 22 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue  
House Committee on Appropriations