

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2020 First Extraordinary Session
June 5, 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 Lance Harris
Representative John R. Illg, Jr.
Representative Frederick Douglass Jones
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Francis C. Thompson
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Dustin Miller

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Blaine Sylvester, sergeant at arms
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

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

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

Louisiana Public Defender Board

Mr. Rémy Starns, public defender, Louisiana Public Defender Board, 301 Main Street, Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 219-9305, provided information regarding the functions and services of the board and discussed the board's FY 21 budget request with Representative Freeman. Mr. Starns also provided statistics regarding the number of pending cases awaiting public defenders to Representatives Freeman and Illg.

Mr. Starns also discussed the projected revenue loss in FY 21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic with Representatives Crews, DuBuisson, Freeman, Magee, and Romero. Mr. Starns also provided statistics regarding attorney furloughs to Representative Crews.

Mr. Starns discussed projected revenue collections in FY 21 and the possibility of opening a public defender office in the north Louisiana area with Representatives Jones and McFarland.

House Bill No. 1 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 1, which provides for the ordinary operating expenses of state government for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Commissioner Jay Dardenne, Division of Administration, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-100, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Bonnie Hymel, director, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, 6400 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-2500, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr. James Travis McIlwain, director, Office of Planning and Budget, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-150, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 342-7005, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Ashley Mullens, LSU AgCenter, 101 J. Norman Efferson Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, (225) 278-1980, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Terrence Ginn, deputy commissioner, Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4253, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments, Exhibit A, which are included in the committee records.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, excluding amendments 1 and 24. After further discussion, Representative Bacala withdrew the motion and no vote was taken.

Representative Thompson a motion to adopt the originally proposed amendments, Exhibit A, to which Representative Bacala objected.

Representative Bacala offered substitute amendments to remove amendments 1 and 24 from the proposed amendments and offered a motion to adopt the substitute amendments. The committee administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 16 nays. Representatives Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Illg, and Wheat voted yea. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Deshotel, Freeman, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, and Turner voted nay.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments in Exhibit A, to which Representative Bacala objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 23 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Magee offered amendments which allocated certain funds to the Louisiana Public Defender Board, the Louisiana Seafood Promotion & Marketing Board Program, the Office of State Parks, the Office of Tourism, and certain foundations throughout the state.

Representative Magee offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Freeman objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 21 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea. Representatives Gary Carter and Freeman voted nay.

Representative Kerner offered amendments which reallocated certain funds within the Jefferson Parish Convention Center fund. Representative Kerner offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 23 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Turner offered amendments which allocated funding to the Union Parish 911 Call Center. Representative Turner 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, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

On behalf of Representative Dustin Miller, Representative Gary Carter offered amendments which allocated certain funds to the Louisiana Public Defender Board. Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Gary Carter offered amendments which required the Louisiana Department of Health to immediately notify the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget of the new hospital payment model. Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 23 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered amendments which allocated certain funding to the Awesome Ladies of Distinction. Representative Lyons offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Bacala objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 7 nays.

Representatives Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Deshotel, Freeman, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, and Magee voted nay.

Representative Wheat offered amendments which allocated certain funding to the city of Ponchatoula and the city of Welsh for water quality improvements. Representative Wheat 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, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Kerner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1 was reported with amendments by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to make House Bill No. 1 special order for June 10, 2020. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to allow the staff to make technical corrections to House Bill No. 1. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, 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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 4 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 1, which provides for monies in the Budget Stabilization Fund to be available for appropriation in Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Representative Turner offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 favorably.

Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 was reported favorably by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 7 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 7, which appropriates funds for the expenses of the judiciary for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Justice John Weimer, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, no telephone number provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 7.

Mr. Bryan Wolff, director of budget, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, no telephone number provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 7.

Ms. Kathleen Stewart Richey, executive director, Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocates Association, 1120 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 930-0305, spoke in support of House Bill No. 7.

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 7 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 7 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to make House Bill No. 7 special order for June 10, 2020. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to allow the staff to make technical corrections to House Bill No. 7. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 1, which provides for monies in the Budget Stabilization Fund to be available for appropriation in Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to make House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 special order for June 10, 2020. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to allow the staff to make technical corrections to House Concurrent Resolution No. 1. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 8 by Representative Schexnayder

Representative Schexnayder presented House Bill No. 8, which makes appropriations for the expenses of the legislature for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments which added \$2,771,501 in funding for the legislative auditor for work performed pursuant to the Act that originated as SB 189 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session of the Legislature. 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, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 8 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 8 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to make House Bill No. 8 special order for June 10, 2020. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to allow the staff to make technical corrections to House Bill No. 8. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 12 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 12, which provides for the ancillary expenses of state government.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 12 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 12 was reported favorably by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to make House Bill No. 12 special order for June 10, 2020. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 9 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 9, which provides for the transfer, deposit, and use of monies among state funds.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments which: (1) added \$54.3 million in additional funding to the Coronavirus Local Recovery Allocation Fund established in the Act that originated as Senate Bill No. 189 of the 2020 Regular Session; (2) authorized the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget to reallocate funds in the State Coronavirus Relief Fund established in the Act that originated as Senate Bill No. 189 of the 2020 Regular Session; and (3) authorized the treasurer to credit funds from the State Coronavirus Relief Fund to other funds in accordance with the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget allocations. Representative Zeringue 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, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Bryan McClinton, undersecretary, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, (225) 765-5021, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 9.

Representative Gary Carter offered amendments which made technical changes to the Act that originated as Senate Bill No. 189 of the 2020 Regular Session. Representative Gary Carter 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, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Turner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 9 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 9 was reported with amendments by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to make House Bill No. 9 special order for June 10, 2020. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to allow the staff to make technical corrections to House Bill No. 9. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 by Representative Schexnayder

Representative Schexnayder presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 2, which provides for a hospital stabilization formula.

Representative McFarland offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to make House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 special order for June 10, 2020. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, McFarland, 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.

House Bill No. 29 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 29, which makes supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Mr. McIlwain spoke for information only on House Bill No. 29.

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 29 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 29 was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to make House Bill No. 29 special order for June 10, 2020. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to allow the staff to make technical corrections to House Bill No. 29. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, 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 Thursday, June 4th, 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 Gary Carter offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations