

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2020 First Extraordinary Session
June 9, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:07 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 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 Blake Miguez
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Francis C. Thompson

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. 34 by Representative Echols**

Representative Echols presented House Bill No. 34, which created the Louisiana Opioid Settlement Fund.

Representative Bacala offered amendments which: (1) removed ULM as the administrator of the fund; (2) removed the requirement that specific percentages of the fund be spent on specific purposes; (3) added exclusive uses of the fund; and (4) required the governor, in consultation with the attorney general and legislature, to develop a plan for the allocation of monies in the fund and submit the plan and proposed budget to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget for approval no later than Jan. 1, 2021. Representative Bacala 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, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, DuBuisson, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Dr. Nick J. Bruno, President, University of Louisiana at Monroe, 700 University Avenue, Monroe, LA 71209, (318) 732-2329, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 34.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 34 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 34 was reported with amendments by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays.

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

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

House Bill No. 27 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 27, which provides relative to the creation of the certified shorthand reporters fund.

Representative Gary Carter offered amendments which: (1) created a custodial fund for the Board of Examiners of Shorthand Reporters Fund within the State Treasury and deleted the requirement that the fund flow through the Bond Security and Redemption Fund; (2) added the requirement that the chairman and secretary-treasurer of the board will sign a warrant to have the net deposits paid to the board; and (3) changed the effective date of Sections 1 and 2 from the sixtieth day after adjournment of the session to July 1, 2020. 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, Gary Carter, Crews, DuBuisson, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 27 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 27 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, DuBuisson, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support and 2 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 15 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 15, which establishes the State Budget Authority Reserve Trust for use as an extra source of revenue for executive department agencies.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments which: (1) removed requirement that unexpended monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year be designated as non-recurring revenue and instead require such unexpended revenues to remain in the fund and (2) changed the effective date from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Ms. Laura Lapeze, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Treasury, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 342-0051, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 15.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 15 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 15 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Miguez, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 40 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 40, which provides for laws relative to statutory dedications.

Representative Turner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 40 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 40 was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, DuBuisson, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Miguez, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 6 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 6, which establishes the State Cybersecurity and Information Technology Fund and dedicates revenues to the fund.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments which: (1) decreased amount deposited into the fund from 0.35% of monies that flow through the Bond Security and Redemption Fund to 0.01% of monies that flow through the Bond Security and Redemption Fund; (2) removed provisions authorizing the legislature to establish a committee to assist in identifying and prioritizing projects to be financed by the fund; and (3) added a provision the outlining process for the office of technology services to provide a list of proposed projects to be financed by the fund to the Joint Legislative Committee on Technology and Cybersecurity (JLCTC). Further requires Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget to approve the final list or projects proposed by the JLCTC. 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, DuBuisson, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Miguez, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

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

Representative DuBuisson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 6 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 6 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, DuBuisson, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Miguez, Romero, 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 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 8th, 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 Romero offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Gary Carter, Crews, DuBuisson, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Miguez, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations