

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2020 First Extraordinary Session
June 23, 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 R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr., vice chairman
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Mary DuBuisson
Representative Lance Harris
Representative John R. Illg, Jr.
Representative Frederick Douglass Jones
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Rodney Lyons
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 Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Raymond J. Crews
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Tanner D. Magee
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. 71 by Representative Duplessis**

Representative Duplessis presented House Bill No. 71, which provides for a death benefit for certain public employees who die from COVID-19.

Representative Turner offered amendments which: (1) Added a requirement that the employee was a direct patient care provider; (2) Changed the date the death must occur to qualify for the benefit from prior to December 31, 2020, to prior to June 5, 2020; and (3) Added a requirement that the amount of benefit per employee shall not exceed \$150,000. Representative Turner offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Gary Carter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Dr. Takeisha C. Davis, chief executive officer, New Orleans East Hospital, 5620 Read Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70127, (504) 303-9245, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 71.

Representative Hughes, co-author of House Bill No. 71, spoke in sponsorship of the measure.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 71 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 71 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Gary Carter, DuBuisson, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 19 by Senator Peacock

Senator Peacock presented Senate Bill No. 19, which provides for investment authority of the Treasurer for the Millennium Trust, the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund, and the Russell Sage or Marsh Island Trust Fund.

Mr. John Broussard, chief investment officer, Department of Treasury, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0013, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 19.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 19 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 19 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Gary Carter, DuBuisson, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, 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 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 22nd, 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 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Gary Carter, DuBuisson, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations