

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2020 Second Extraordinary Session  
October 6, 2020

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 Rick Edmonds  
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 Dustin Miller  
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 Mary DuBuisson

Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman  
Representative Lance Harris

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms  
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**Main Street Recovery Program**

Treasurer John M. Schroder, Department of Treasury, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0010, provided the committee with an update regarding the progress of the Main Street Recovery Program.

Treasurer Schroder discussed the need for more money allocated to the Main Street Recovery Program and the deadline to exhaust all available funds with Representatives Zeringue and Bacala.

Treasurer Schroder also discussed the application process for the program and the amount of funding allocated to female, minority, and veteran-owned businesses with Representative Marcelle.

Treasurer Schroder discussed his thoughts on the success of the Main Street Recovery Program with Representative Wheat.

Treasurer Schroder discussed the quick relief option of the Main Street Recovery Program, the technology struggles with the application process, and the timeline for applicants to receive funds with Representative Illg.

Treasurer Schroder discussed certain criteria to qualify for the Main Street Recovery Program with Representative Kerner. Treasurer Schroder also discussed the demographics of contractors hired to administer the program with Representative Marcelle.

Treasurer Schroder also provided statistics regarding the number of bars that applied for funding through the Main Street Recovery Program to Representative Zeringue.

**House Bill No. 72 by Representative Stefanski**

Representative Stefanski presented House Bill No. 72, which provides dedicated funding and requirements within the La. Main Street Recovery Program for certain establishments.

Representative Magee offered amendments which: (1) changed the date by which a qualifying bar must have been in possession of current permits awarded by the commissioner of alcohol and tobacco control from March 1, 2020, to March 16, 2020; and (2) provided that any bar meeting the qualifications of the proposed law that had filed an application in connection with the Main Street Recovery Program and been disqualified may have its application reviewed for an award pursuant to the proposed law. Representative Magee 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, Carrier, Gary Carter, Deshotel, Edmonds, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Kerner offered an amendment. After discussion, Representative Kerner withdrew the amendment.

Representative Magee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 72 with amendments, to which Representative Bacala objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 72 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carrier, Gary Carter, Deshotel, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, and Turner voted yea. Representatives Bacala, Edmonds, Thompson, and Wheat voted nay.

**House Bill No. 85 by Representative Magee**

Representative Magee presented House Bill No. 85, which provides relative to the Louisiana Main Street Recovery Program.

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 85 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 85 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

*Representative Gary Carter in the chair.*

**House Bill No. 27 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 27, which provides relative to fees charged to businesses by state agencies during a state of emergency.

Representative Gary Carter offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill which would exempt certain small businesses in specific industries that were impacted by COVID-19 from paying license renewal fees until six months after the termination of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Representative Gary Carter 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, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 27 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 27 was reported by substitute by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 75 by Representative McFarland**

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 75, which provides relative to the disposition of timber severance taxes.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments which: (1) excluded unexpended and unencumbered monies in the subfund created pursuant to proposed law from being transferred to the La. Agricultural Finance Authority at the end of each year; and (2) exempted monies in the subfund created pursuant to proposed law from present law used for the Forest Protection Fund. 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, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Dr. Mike Strain, commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1233, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 75.

Ms. Toni McAllister, executive director, Louisiana Loggers Association, 208 Shady Hills Lane, Winnfield, LA 71483, (318) 729-1726, spoke in support on House Bill No. 75.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 75 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 75 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 84 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 84, which provides relative to the expenditure of federal funds received as a result of a disaster or emergency.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments which clarified the prohibition on expending new or additional federal funds after JLCB has met to consider the previous expenditures applied to all agencies. 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, Carrier, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 84 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 84 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Dustin Miller, 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.

## **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Alcohol and Tobacco Control**

Commissioner Ernest P. Legier, Jr., Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control (ATC), 7979 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 954-0178, addressed the committee regarding the allegation of unequal treatment of bars and restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Legier discussed the number of personnel employed by the ATC, the types of complaints the ATC responds to, and certain penalties issues during the COVID-19 pandemic with Representative Illg.

#### ***Representative Gary Carter in the chair.***

Commissioner Legier discussed the differences between regulating bars and breweries with Representative Wheat. Commissioner Legier also discussed his involvement regarding the regulation of bars during the COVID-19 pandemic with Representative Romero.

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: Statements emailed to [h-app@legis.la.gov](mailto:h-app@legis.la.gov) and received prior to 8:00 a.m., on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, will be distributed to the committee members prior to the meeting.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Romero offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Gary Carter, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue  
House Committee on Appropriations