

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Second Extraordinary Session
October 13, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 10:06 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 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 Blake Miguez
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Francis C. Thompson
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Jack G. McFarland

Representative Dustin Miller

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Briefing from City of New Orleans

Mayor LaToya Cantrell, City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-4000, addressed the committee regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the City of New Orleans, the city's efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and the need for additional resources to offset lost revenue.

Mr. Gilbert Montaña, chief administrative officer, City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-4000, addressed the committee regarding fiscal trends for the City of New Orleans as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Cantrell discussed the loss of four law enforcement officers to COVID-19 and the city's response to Hurricanes Laura and Delta with Representative Carter. Mayor Cantrell and Mr. Montaña also provided statistical information regarding the impact of the pandemic on certain public safety workers throughout the City of New Orleans to Representative Carter.

Mayor Cantrell and Mr. Montaña discussed the status of the city's certificate of indebtedness for COVID-19 related expenses, the sale of certain bonds to act as an economic stimulus for the residents of New Orleans, and fiscal projections for FY 20-21 and FY 21-22 with Representative Zeringue.

Mayor Cantrell discussed her phased approach to reopening the city's economy with Representatives Zeringue and Illg.

Mayor Cantrell discussed easements of restricted capacity for high school sports during the COVID-19 pandemic with Representative Illg.

Representative Lyons took a personal privilege to commend Mayor Cantrell regarding the work done to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the New Orleans region.

Mayor Cantrell and Mr. Montaña also discussed the amount of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding allocated to the city with Representative Lyons.

Mayor Cantrell discussed the city's efforts to respond and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 with Representatives Freeman and Romero and discussed the city's plan for economic recovery with Representatives DuBuisson and Romero.

Mayor Cantrell also discussed the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants with Representative Marcelle. Mayor Cantrell also discussed anticipated furloughs for certain city employees with Representatives Bacala and Marcelle.

Mayor Cantrell provided statistical information regarding the number of businesses closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic to Representative DuBuisson.

Mayor Cantrell and Mr. Montaña discussed the cost savings associated with employee furloughs and the easement of certain city restrictions with Representatives Bacala and Crews.

Representative Carter took a personal privilege to acknowledge and thank Mayor Cantrell for her efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

House Bill No. 92 by Representative Landry

On behalf of Representative Landry, Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 92, which provides relative to compensation for certain child care workers.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 92. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 92 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 37 by Senator White

Senator White presented Senate Bill No. 37, which provides relative to the capital outlay process.

Dr. Shawn Wilson, secretary, Department of Transportation and Development, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 379-1200, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 37.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 37 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 37 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Magee, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 86 by Representative Cormier

Representative Cormier presented House Bill No. 86, which makes supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Representative Carpenter offered amendments which: (1) required the purchased devices to be capable of performing a fifty percent compression-decompression duty cycle; and (2) required receiving institutions to maintain the device at their athletic training facilities and to transport the device to "home games" and established procedures for the event that more than one "home game" is occurring simultaneously on campus. Representative Carpenter 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, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Magee, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Magee offered amendments which changed the funding source from the La. Main Street Recovery Fund to the Medical Vendor Payments Program in the La. Department of Health. Representative Magee offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 86 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 86 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, 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: Statements emailed to h-app@legis.la.gov and received prior to noon on Monday, October 12, 2020, will be distributed to the committee members prior to the meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Turner offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations