

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Second Extraordinary Session
October 19, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 10:13 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 C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Blake Miguez
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:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 by Senator Cortez**

On behalf of Senator Cortez, Representative Beaulieu and Senator Reese presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9, which suspends the provision of law providing for an unemployment insurance solvency tax.

Mr. Robert Wooley, assistant secretary, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3111, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9.

Representative Carrier offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 30 by Representative Landry

Representative Landry presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 30, which memorializes congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass a stimulus plan that includes funds for unemployment, housing, local government, struggling businesses, education, and health care.

Mr. Davante Lewis, director of public affairs, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Suite 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, no telephone number provided, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 30.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 30 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 30 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas

and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 38 by Senator White

Senator White presented Senate Bill No. 38, which provides relative to the creation, use, dedication, and transfer of funds in the state treasury.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments which: (1) removed the creation of the Fiscal Year 2021 Balanced Budget Reserve Fund; (2) added supplementing the state's unemployment trust fund as an allowable use of the State Coronavirus Relief Fund; and (3) required the treasurer to transfer any unobligated balance in the Critical Infrastructure Workers Hazard Pay Rebate Fund on Dec. 1, 2020, to the State Coronavirus Relief Fund. Representative Zeringue 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, Deshotel, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments which removed the creation of the 2020 Overcollections Fund. 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, Bacala, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Chris Keaton, legislative fiscal officer, Legislative Fiscal Office, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 7233, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 38.

Mr. Alan Boxberger, staff director, Legislative Fiscal Office, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 7233, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 38.

Ms. Sherry Phillips-Hymel, director, Senate Fiscal Services, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-8894, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 38.

Commissioner Jay Dardenne, Division of Administration, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, submitted a red card in opposition, but spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 38.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 38 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 38 was reported with amendments 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, McFarland, Romero, 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

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 hopkinsl@legis.la.gov and received prior to noon on Sunday, October 18, 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 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Gary Carter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations