

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
April 21, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 Blake Miguez
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Francis C. Thompson
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Tanner D. Magee

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Katie Andress, committee administrative assistant

Ms. Stephanie Little, attorney

Ms. Amanda Trapp, legislative analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Ms. Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION**Public Testimony for House Bill No. 1 of the 2021 Regular Session**

Representative Zeringue indicated that the committee would hear public testimony regarding the appropriations proposed in House Bill No. 1, schedule by schedule.

Executive Department - Schedule 1

Ms. Kate Shipley, executive director, Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers, 900 Camp Street, Suite 347, New Orleans, LA 70130, (445) 895-2204, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Ms. Erica Dupépe, executive director, Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center, 220 Lavoisier Street, Gretna, LA 70053, (504) 881-5900, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Jackson Voss, policy analyst, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Drive, Suite 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 614-9126, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Louisiana Department of Health - Schedule 9

Mr. Andrew Mull, associate state director, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Louisiana, 1000 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 226-1921, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Tory Rocca, director of public policy, Disability Rights Louisiana, 8325 Oak Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (800) 960-7705, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Wendy F. Eschete, executive director, Lafourche Arc, 100 West Main Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301, (985) 447-6214, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Caroline Meehan, executive director, Community Provider Association, 4324 Banks Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, no telephone number provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Brian Hensgens, executive director, Lafayette Arc, 303 New Hope Road, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 984-6110, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1 and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Stephen Sauer, executive director, The Arc of Greater New Orleans, 925 South Labarre Road, Metairie, LA 70001, (504) 837-5105, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Bridgette Weilson, president, Community Provider Association, 1305 Western Avenue, Hammond, LA 70403, (985) 969-6154, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Erica Buchanan, executive director, Cadence of Acadiana, 2435 West Congress Street, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 288-0035, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Department of Children and Family Services - Schedule 10

Ms. Cassandra Guillaume, foster care ambassador, Louisiana Foster Care Support Services, P.O. Box 929, Ruston, LA 71273, (504) 233-3379, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

Judge Adam J. Haney, East Baton Rouge Juvenile Court, 8333 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70807, (225) 354-1280, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Department of Education - Schedule 19

Mr. Billy Tickle, advocate, Save the Children Action Network (SCAN), 9851 Jefferson Highway, H-19, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 252-1348, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Cindy Bishop, Childcare Association of Louisiana, 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7690, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Julie Stokes, sustaining member, Ellevate Louisiana, 3501 North Causeway Blvd., Suite 900, Metairie, LA 70002, (504) 655-0930, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Laura Vinsant, executive director, Teach for America, 501 Government Street, Suite 100, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 444-5035, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1 and provided a handout, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Ms. Alison Mehr, managing director, Teach for America, 865 Fulton Street, Suite 400, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 256-5922, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Dr. Libbie Sonnier, executive director, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, P.O. Box 13552, New Orleans, LA 70185, (985) 687-7494, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Ileana Ledet, vice president of policy, GNO, Inc., 1100 Poydras Street, Suite 3475, New Orleans, LA 70163, (504) 527-6900, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Charmaine Caccioppi, executive vice president, United Way of Southeast Louisiana, 2515 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 822-5540, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. LaToya Jackson, Rise Corp., LLC, P.O. Box 7194, Monroe, LA 71211, (318) 473-5373, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

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

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 78 received. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1 by Representative Zeringue

The following agencies contained in House Bill No. 1 were presented and discussed:

Department of Education

Mr. Ashari Robinson, budget analyst, House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2412, presented an overview and discussed the FY 21-22 budget for the department.

Dr. Cade Brumley, superintendent, Department of Education (DOE), 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3617, addressed the committee regarding the department's efforts to provide adequate education to students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Brumley also provided a handout, Exhibit E, which is included in the committee records.

Dr. Brumley discussed funding for the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula, certain allocations within the department's proposed budget, and funding for the state's litter abatement program, Keep Louisiana Beautiful, with Representative Zeringue.

Ms. Beth Scioneaux, deputy superintendent, DOE, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3617, provided an explanation of the MFP formula to the committee and discussed the final MFP formula compared to the number of students with Representative Zeringue.

Dr. Brumley discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on elementary and high school students with Representative Illg. Dr. Brumley also discussed teacher retention issues and salary increases for teachers with Representative Freeman.

Dr. Quentina Timoll, chief of staff, DOE, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 955-4177, provided an update on receiving funding through the Pandemic EBT Program (P-EBT) for certain school children to Representative Freeman.

Dr. Brumley discussed certain departments contacts to discuss upcoming legislation, the department's plan to provide more traditional face-to-face instruction to students, and the impact of providing hybrid instruction on teachers with Representative Carpenter.

Ms. Scioneaux discussed the need for additional funding within the MFP formula with Representative McFarland.

Dr. Brumley discussed the influence of the Compass Information System (CIS) on compensation to teachers, the potential implementation of a new compensation model for teachers, and the amount of federal funds allocated for broadband internet access with Representative McFarland.

Representative Carter in the chair.

Ms. Scioneaux and Mr. J. Travis McIlwain, director, Office of Planning and Budget, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7005, discussed the department's excess budget authority and the result of a reduced student count on the MFP formula with Representative Bacala.

Representative Deshotel commended Dr. Brumley on his work with the Office of Broadband to provide broadband internet access to students across Louisiana.

Dr. Brumley discussed the importance of certain teacher evaluation models, the shortage of teachers in Louisiana, the department's efforts to increase the quality of teachers within the state, and Teach for America's success in Louisiana with Representative Thompson.

Representative Carter took a personal privilege to acknowledge the student officers of the State Beta Club.

IV. BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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 h-app@legis.la.gov and received prior to noon on Tuesday, April 20th, 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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations