

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
April 26, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary 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 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 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 Gary M. Carter, Jr., vice chairman

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

Representative Magee in the chair.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 6, which directs flood protection districts and parish governing authorities in areas benefitting from the federal Hurricane Storm Drainage and Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) to contribute towards the \$400 million annual payments the state must make for this project.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 128 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 128, which provides relative to the powers and duties of the Cash Management Review Board with respect to financial security and cybersecurity plans and procedures adopted by state agencies, including the assessment and deployment of such plans and procedures.

Representative Magee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 128 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 128 was reported favorably by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays.

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

Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 154 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 154, a constitutional amendment which provides relative to the maximum amount of monies in certain funds that may be invested in stocks.

Representative Francis Thompson, District 19, spoke in support of the measure, as well as the enabling legislation, House Bill No. 142.

Representative Magee offered amendments which: (1) add the Artificial Reef Development Fund and the Lifetime License Endowment Trust Fund to the list of funds for which the treasurer may invest up to 65% of fund monies in equities and (2) remove the Millennium Leverage Fund from the proposed law.

Representative Magee 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, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. John Broussard, chief investments officer, Department of Treasury, 900 North Third Street, 21st Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0013, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 154.

Representative Magee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 154 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 154 was reported with amendments by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Magee, Marcelle, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Zeringue in the chair.

House Bill No. 142 by Representative Thompson

Representative Thompson presented House Bill No. 142, which provides relative to investment authority of the treasurer.

Representative Turner offered amendments which: (1) add the Artificial Reef Development Fund and the Lifetime License Endowment Trust Fund to the list of treasury funds for which the treasurer is authorized to invest up to 65%; (2) remove the Millennium Leverage Fund from the proposed law of fund monies in equities; and (3) make technical changes. Representative Turner 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, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 142 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 142 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 31 by Representative Muscarello

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 31, which authorizes use of Parish Transportation Fund monies for mass transit in Tangipahoa Parish.

Representative Wheat offered a motion to report House Bill No. 31 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 31 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 38 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 38, which provides for school board information to be accessible on the Louisiana Fiscal Transparency Website known as Louisiana Checkbook.

Mr. Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 978-9234, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 38.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 38 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 38 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, 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.

House Bill No. 40 by Representative Wright

On behalf of Representative Wright, Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 40, which limits certain monies from being used to pay for certain Dept. of Transportation and Development expenses.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 40. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 40 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, 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.

House Bill No. 58 by Representative Coussan

On behalf of Representative Coussan, Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 58, which extends certain funding for the Mineral and Energy Operation Fund.

Mr. James Blake Canfield, executive counsel, Department of Natural Resources, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3024, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 58.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 58 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 58 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 284 by Representative Illg

Representative Illg presented House Bill No. 284, which provides relative to securities lending.

Mr. John Broussard, chief investments officer, Department of Treasury, 900 North Third Street, 21st Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0013, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 284.

Representative Turner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 284 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 284 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 276 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 276, which provides for changes in the expenditure limit calculation.

Representative Zeringue offered a technical amendment. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Jan Moller, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 819-7715, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 276.

Representative Edmonds in the chair.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 276 with amendments, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 276 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Kerner, McFarland, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea. Representatives Adams, Freeman, and Marcelle voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 273 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 273, a constitutional amendment which provides for changes in the expenditure limit calculation.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 273 favorably, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 273 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Kerner, McFarland, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea. Representatives Freeman, Lyons, Marcelle, and Dustin Miller voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 618 by Representative Dustin Miller

Representative Dustin Miller presented House Bill No. 618, which provides with respect to fiscal intermediary services contracts in state information technology procurement.

Ms. Tara LeBlanc, interim medicaid director, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 628.

Representative Dustin Miller offered amendments which: (1) remove "enterprise architecture" from the definition of "fiscal intermediary services" used in the proposed law; (2) remove the requirement that fiscal intermediary services contracts be awarded by competitive selection; and (3) require "fiscal intermediary services" contracts to be awarded by either competitive sealed proposals, as provided in present law, or cooperative purchasing, as provided in present law. Representative Dustin Miller offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 618 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 618 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Thompson, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 545 by Representative Hughes

Representative Hughes presented House Bill No. 545, which provides relative to the Department of Transportation and Development and the State Highway Improvement Fund for the expenditure of money.

Representative Edmonds offered a technical amendment. Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Thompson, and Turner voted yea.

Dr. Shawn Wilson, secretary, Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 379-1232, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 545.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 545 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 545 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Illg took a personal privilege to acknowledge Ms. Lauren Tucker, a prospective college student.

House Bill No. 508 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 508, which dedicates funds to the State Cybersecurity and Information Technology Fund.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 508. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 508 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, Edmonds, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Dustin Miller took a personal privilege to acknowledge Mr. Jessie Bellard, St. Landry Parish president, and Mr. M. Larry Richard, Iberia Parish president.

House Bill No. 511 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 511, which provides relative to budgetary operations and funding for the Department of Transportation and Development.

Representative McFarland offered amendments which: (1) delete the requirement that the legislature appropriate funding for DOTD's operating budget from the avails of taxes from the sale, use, lease or rental, distribution, consumption, and storage for use or consumption of motor vehicles and (2) require the deposit of the avails of taxes from the sale, use, lease or rental, distribution, consumption, and storage for use or consumption of motor vehicles into the Construction Subfund of the TTF, beginning with 10% for FY 2021-2022 and increasing to 100% for FY 2030-2031 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Representative McFarland offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, Edmonds, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue in the chair.

Dr. Eric Kalivoda, deputy secretary, DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 379-1232, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 511.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 511 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 511 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 566 by Representative Jordan

On behalf of Representative Jordan, Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 566, which dedicates a portion of the taxes collected on certain surplus lines of insurance.

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 566 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 566 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 347 by Representative Kerner

Representative Kerner presented House Bill No. 347, which provides relative to the Regional Maintenance and Improvement Fund.

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 347 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 347 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 155 by Representative Cormier

Representative Cormier presented House Bill No. 155, which provides appropriation for the Board of Regents for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to purchase certain chest compression devices.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 155. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 155 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in opposition and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

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 Friday, April 23th, 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 Harris offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations