

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
May 11, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:09 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 Raymond J. Crews
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Mary DuBuisson
Representative Rick Edmonds
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 Dustin Miller
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Francis C. Thompson
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative Debbie Villio
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr., vice chairman
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Blake Miguez

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 OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 316 by Representative Davis**

Representative Davis presented House Bill No. 316, which adds mucopolysaccharidosis type I and glycogen storage disorder type II to the state's newborn screening panel.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 316 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 316 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 388 by Representative Harris

Representative Harris presented House Bill No. 388, which provides relative to the preparation and verification process of absentee and early voting ballots prior to election day.

Representative Dustin Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 388 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 388 was reported favorably by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, 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.

House Bill No. 446 by Representative Butler

Representative Butler presented House Bill No. 446, which creates and provides for the office of the state Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator within the division of administration.

Mr. Jay Isch, advocate and interpreting coordinator, Deaf Focus, 4332 Rhoda Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 341-6337, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 446.

Mr. Jimmy Gore, president, Louisiana Association for the Deaf, 3112 Valley Creek Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 341-1152, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 446.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 446 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 446 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 138 by Representative Farnum

Representative Farnum presented House Bill No. 138, which provides for a supplemental annual canvass of registered voters.

Mr. Joe R. Salter, chief of staff, Department of State, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 138.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 138 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 138 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 317 by Representative Kerner

Representative Kerner presented House Bill No. 317, which establishes a fee to support testing and monitoring for harmful substances in imported seafood.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 317 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 317 was reported favorably by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 604 by Representative James

Representative James presented House Bill No. 604, which provides relative to expungement of records.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to: (1) add a provision granting immunity to clerks of court for records not expunged pursuant to proposed law when necessary data did not exist in the records of the clerk of court; and (2) further provide remedies for a person seeking expungement in such circumstances. 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, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Jones, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Ms. Vanessa Spinazola, executive director, Justice and Accountability Center, 4035 Washington Avenue, Suite 203, New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 322-4050, spoke in support of House Bill No. 604.

Lt. Colonel Chris Eskew, Louisiana State Police (LSP), 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-6111, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 604.

Ms. Adrienne Aucoin, attorney, Office of Legal Affairs, 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-6103, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 604.

Lt. Lance Kennedy, LSP, 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-6095, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 604.

Representative Harris in the chair.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 604 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 604 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 33 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 92 by Representative Marino

Representative Marino presented House Bill No. 92, which increases the amount paid for a person who has been wrongfully convicted.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to: (1) change the amount of annual compensation from \$25,000 to \$40,000; (2) change the maximum amount of compensation available from \$250,000 to \$400,000; and (3) authorize new claimants who first file a petition on or after July 1, 2021, the option of taking a lump sum payment of \$250,000 in lieu of the \$40,000 annual payment. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, and Villio voted yea.

Ms. Kia Hayes, staff attorney, Innocence Project New Orleans, 4051 Ulloa Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 943-1902, spoke in support of House Bill No. 92.

Representative Marcelle took a personal privilege to acknowledge Mr. Wilbert Jones for being wrongfully convicted, serving forty-six years in prison, and later exonerated.

Representative Jones offered a motion to report House Bill No. 92 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 92 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Harris, Illg, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 45 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 40 by Representative Wright

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

Dr. Eric Kalivoda, undersecretary, Department of Transportation and Development, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 379-1232, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 40.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 40 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 40 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Crews, DuBuisson, Harris, Jones, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Villio, 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. 213 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 213, which provides for Medicaid eligibility determination functions and Medicaid fraud detection and prevention.

Representative Zeringue in the chair.

Ms. Linda Hawkins, healthcare program chair, Louisiana League of Women Voters, 22271 Main Street, Abita Springs, LA 70420, (985)-809-3983, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 213.

Mr. Daniel Mintz, director of safety net policy, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Suite 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 614-9126, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 213.

Ms. Courtney Foster, Medicaid policy advocate, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Suite 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 614-9126, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 213.

Mr. Luke Morris, assistant secretary, Department of Revenue, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 662-8411, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 213.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 213 favorably, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 213 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea. Representatives Carpenter, Jones, Lyons, Marcelle, and Dustin Miller voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 622 by Representative Thompson

Representative Thompson presented House Bill No. 622, which provides relative to the office of rural development and the Rural Development Program.

Mr. J. Kent Rogers, executive director, Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, 625 Texas Street, Suite 200, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 841-5950, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 622.

Representative Wheat offered a motion to report House Bill No. 622 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 622 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Harris, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 2 by Representative Bishop

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 2, which provides for the comprehensive Capital Outlay budget.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to change funding to the cash portion of the bill. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, DuBuisson, Harris, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 2 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 2 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

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

The meeting stood at ease at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 12:39 p.m.

House Bill No. 513 by Representative Landry

Representative Landry presented House Bill No. 513, which establishes a burial fund for pregnancy-related maternal deaths.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to require any program adopted pursuant to proposed law to provide for payments to be made directly to the "funeral establishment" furnishing "funeral goods and services" to the family of the deceased, as defined in present law. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Harris, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 513 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 513 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Harris, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. 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 Monday, May 10th, 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 Lyons offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Harris, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations