

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
May 24, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.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 Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Francis C. Thompson
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative Debbie Villio
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Frederick Douglass Jones
Representative Blake Miguez
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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 452 by Representative Davis**

Representative Davis presented House Bill No. 452, which creates a domestic violence fatality review team within the Louisiana Department of Health.

Ms. Mariah Wineski, Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, P.O. Box 77308, Baton Rouge, LA 70879, (225) 752-1296, spoke in support of House Bill No. 452.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Bill No. 452 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 452 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Carter, Crews, Deshotel, Freeman, Harris, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, 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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 10 by Senator Fields

Senator Fields presented Senate Bill No. 10, which provides for mandatory kindergarten attendance and requires compulsory school attendance beginning at age five.

Dr. Janet Pope, executive director, Louisiana School Board Association, 620 Florida Street, Suite 100, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 769-3191, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 10.

Ms. Sarah Vandergriff, legal and policy director, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 320 Metairie Hammond Highway, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 430-6749, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 10.

Ms. Freda Gail Holmes, 6721 Greenmeadow Drive, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739, (225) 936-7544, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 10.

Ms. Yuliya Boyun, 13611 Shortridge Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 955-8353, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 10.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 10 favorably, to which Representative Crews objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 10 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Carter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea. Representative Crews voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 17 in support and 4 in opposition. 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: 2 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 149 by Senator Harris

On behalf of Senator Harris, Chairman Zeringue presented Senate Bill No. 149, which provides for a special election for submission of proposed constitutional amendments to the electors.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 149 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 149 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, Freeman, Harris, Kerner, Marcelle, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 150 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 150, which requires the Office of Group Benefits to cover bariatric surgery techniques for the treatment of severe obesity.

Dr. Rachel L. Moore, Louisiana Bariatric Association, 5027 Dryades Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, (504) 439-0345, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 150.

Col. David W. Couvillion, chief executive officer, Office of Group Benefits, 1201 North Third Street, Suite G-159, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9670, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 150.

A handout was provided, but not discussed, Exhibit A, and is included in the committee records.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 150 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 150 was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Carter Deshotel, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Romero, Thompson, Turner, 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.

Senate Bill No. 167 by Senator Allain

On behalf of Senator Allain, Chairman Zeringue presented Senate Bill No. 167, which provides for the transfer and use of certain monies to the Oilfield Site and Restoration Fund.

Mr. Blake Canfield, executive counsel, Department of Natural Resources, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3024, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 167.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments which: (1) remove the requirement that the first \$30 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds be transferred into the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund; (2) require \$30 million from the first federal funds received by the state for which oilfield site restoration or plugging orphan wells is an allowable use to be deposited into the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund; and (3) require the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget to determine whether the federal funds can be used for that purpose. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Carter, Crews, Deshotel, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 167 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 167 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Carter, Crews, Deshotel, Edmonds, Freeman, Harris, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, 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.

Senate Bill No. 211 by Senator Jackson

On behalf of Senator Jackson, Representative Carter presented Senate Bill No. 211, which requires in-service training for teachers and certain other school personnel on adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed education.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 211 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 211 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Carter, Crews, Deshotel, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Turner took a personal privilege to acknowledge Adam Holland and Jim Holland from Oak Grove, LA.

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, May 21st, 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 Thompson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carter, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations