

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 5, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Raymond J. Crews
Representative Mary DuBuisson
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
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, vice chairman
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative Debbie Villio
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Brett F. Geymann
Representative Jason Hughes
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Dustin Miller

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dazia Briscoe, committee administrative assistant
Chris Henry, budget analyst
Chas Nichols, budget analyst
Ashari Robinson, budget analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

Public Testimony for House Bill No. 1 of the 2022 Regular Session

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

Schedule 1 - Executive Office

Ms. Kate Shipley, Children's Advocacy Center, 900 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (443) 895-2204, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Ms. Susan Witherspoon, Children's Advocacy Center, 15441 Waywood Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 328-8395, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Erika Dupepe, Children's Advocacy Center, 220 Lavoisier Street, Gretna, LA 70053, (504) 881-5900, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

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

Schedule 4B - Department of Justice

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

Schedule 7 - Department of Transportation and Development

Mr. Caleb Holmes, Sierra Club Delta Chapter, 2455 Weldwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (318) 638-9500, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 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: 5 received. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Schedule 8 - Department of Public Safety, Corrections, and Youth Services

Ms. Hesna Bokoum, LA HOOP Coalition, 701 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 397-0160, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

Schedule 9 - Louisiana Department of Health

Ms. Joy Pennington, Early Steps, 6658 Millstone Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 315-8163, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Sherri Bunch, Early Steps, 25591 Oaks Hill Road, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 281-0505, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Mari Kantron, Early Steps, 2216 Myrtle Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 252-0762, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Michelle Wall, Early Steps, 11376 Copperwood Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 288-8767, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Anthony Stafford, Early Steps, 244 Belleau Wood Boulevard, Alexandria, La 71303, (318) 838-4376, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Dr. Bobby Savoie, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 536-1293, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Andrew Mull, AARP, 1000 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 226-1921, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Susan Daigle, AARP, 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 276-1541, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Tory Rocca, Disability Rights Louisiana, 8325 Oak Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (586) 838-0879, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Jacquelyn Blaney, Supported Living Network, 1468 Applewood Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 335-8904, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Nicole Flores, Louisiana Council's Advocacy Network (LaCAN), 303 Confederate Avenue, Broussard, La 70518, (337) 278-5655, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Scott Tippett, Save the Children Action Network (SCAN), 844 North Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC 20002, (225) 244-9532, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Susan East Nelson, LA Partnership for Children & Families, 13609 Landmark Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 229-2498, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Ms. Kaitlyn Joshua, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, 12296 Oak Colony Drive, Geismer, LA 70734, (225) 454-8321, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 20 in support, 12 in opposition, and 17 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: 17 received. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Schedule 10 - Department of Children and Family Services

Ms. Carly Long, The Family Justice Center, 220 Hospital Boulevard, Pineville, LA 71360, (318) 448-0884, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Wendi Powell, The Family Justice Center, 220 Hospital Boulevard, Pineville, LA 71360, (318) 448-0884, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Representative Mike Johnson, District 27, 2757 Highway 28, East Pineville, LA 71360, (318) 487-5377, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Ashley Herbert, American Heart Association, 2644 South Sherwood Forest, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (337) 298-1778, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Schedule 11 - Department of Natural Resources

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

Schedule 19B - Special Schools and Commissions

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 2 received. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Schedule 19D - Department of Education

Ms. Linda Frantz, The Bright School, 1600 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 256-9200, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Representative Thompson in the chair.

Dr. Libbie Sonnier, Louisiana Institute for Children, P.O. Box 13552, New Orleans, LA 70185, (985) 687-1494, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Billy Tickle, SCAN, 844 North Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC 20002, (225) 252-1348, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Scott Tippett, SCAN, 844 North Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC 20002, (225) 244-9532, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

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

Ms. Megan Garretson, Young Scholars Academy, 16013 Firewood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, no phone number provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Alisha Thibodeaux, LaCAN, 169 South Beadle Road, Lafayette, LA 70508, (337) 342-3117, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Kristie Curtis, LaCAN, 10416 North Road, Abbeville, LA 70510, (337) 492-3110, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Eileen Jorgensen, 18153 River Birch Drive, Prarieville, LA 70769, (225) 266-2436, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Ursula Brown, LaCAN, no address provided, (225) 272-2255, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 9 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: 62 received. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Schedule 20 - Other Requirements

Mr. Paul Moassen, Public Radio Inc., 3050 Valley Creole Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 926-3050, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Brian Davis, Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation, 315 Charlie McCain Road, West Monroe, LA 71292, (318) 267-5220, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1 and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Ms. Renee Roberts, St. Tammany Parish Government, 21940 Koop Drive, Mandeville, LA 70471, (225) 342-6290, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Representative DuBuisson, District 90, P.O. Box 44, Slidell, LA 70459, (985) 645-3592, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Jeanne Brooks, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum, 133 Mabel Drive, Madisonville, LA 70447, (985) 845-9200, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1 and provided a handout, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Ms. Christine Barnhill, Ozone Music Education Foundation, P.O. Box 23, Mandeville, LA 70127. (504) 915-0647. spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1 and provided a handout, Exhibit E, which is included in the committee records.

Ms. Miranda Restovic, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH), 938 Lafayette Street, New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 620-2486, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1 and provided a handout, Exhibit F, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Charles Barjon, Sierra Club Delta Chapter, no address provided, (562) 922-9964, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

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

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no other business.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative DuBuisson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations