

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2022 Regular Session  
April 11, 2022

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.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 Brett F. Geymann  
Representative Jason Hughes  
Representative John R. Illg, Jr.  
Representative Timothy P. Kerner  
Representative Rodney Lyons  
Representative Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Dustin Miller  
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 C. Denise Marcelle  
Representative Blake Miguez

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dazia Briscoe, committee administrative assistant  
Stephanie Little, attorney  
Mark Mahaffey, division director  
Chas Nichols, budget analyst  
Daniel Waguespack, deputy director

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Myrtis Jarell, sergeant at arms  
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

**III. BUSINESS**

*Representative McFarland in the chair.*

**House Bill No. 228 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 228, which repeals provisions relative to the tracking and reporting of unpaid judgments against the state.

Representative Carrier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 228 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 228 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Freeman, Geymann, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

**House Bill No. 318 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 318, which re-creates the Department of the Treasury and the statutory entities made a part of the department by law.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 318 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 318 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Freeman, Geymann, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

*Chairman Zeringue in the chair.*

**House Bill No. 33 by Representative DeVillier**

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 33, which creates and provides for a program to provide state funding for the education of students not enrolled in public school.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove a provision that provided that funds in the account are not taxable income of the parent.
- (2) Remove the prohibition that account funds not be claimed as a credit, deduction, exemption, or rebate under present law.

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, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Hughes, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Ethan Melancon, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 852-4649, spoke in support of House Bill No. 33.

Mr. Kaleb Moore, American Federation for Children, P.O. Box 6905, New Orleans, LA 70174, (337) 396-0196, spoke in support of House Bill No. 33.

Mr. Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 33.

Dr. Wendy Baudoin, Louisiana School Boards Association, 620 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 769-3191, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 33.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 33 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 33 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, DuBuisson, Freeman, Hughes, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 2 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: 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 250 by Representative Magee**

Representative Magee presented House Bill No. 250, a constitutional amendment which provides for appropriations from the Education Excellence Fund.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to make technical changes. 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, DuBuisson, Freeman, Hughes, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 250 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 250 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Freeman, Hughes, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, 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.

**House Bill No. 310 by Representative Magee**

Representative Magee presented House Bill No. 310, which provides exceptions for the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium for Research and Education with respect to certain capital outlay projects and public contract procurements.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 310 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 310 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Freeman, Hughes, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

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

**House Bill No. 645 by Representative Magee**

Representative Magee presented House Bill No. 645, which establishes the Community Options Waiver Fund and provides for dedication of revenues and use of monies in the fund.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.

- (2) Authorize use of fund monies to provide Medicaid home and community-based services for persons with adult-onset disabilities.
- (3) Change the requirement that the La. Dept. of Health consult with the Developmental Disabilities Council to develop a plan for use of fund monies to consultation with stakeholders representing persons with adult-onset disabilities.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Freeman, Hughes, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 645 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 645 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Hughes, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 19 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 687 by Representative Orgeron**

Representative Orgeron presented House Bill No. 687, which provides relative to the disposition of funds derived from alternative energy production in the coastal area.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Chip Kline, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4367, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 687.

Representative Kerner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 687 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 687 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Dustin Miller, Romero, 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.

**House Bill No. 636 by Representative Orgeron**

Representative Orgeron presented House Bill No. 636, a constitutional amendment which provides relative to the disposition of funds derived from alternative energy production in the coastal area.

Representative DuBuisson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 636 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 636 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Dustin Miller, Romero, 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.

**House Bill No. 346 by Representative Thompson**

Representative Thompson presented House Bill No. 346, which provides for a program and a fund for the purpose of providing scholarships for students in approved teacher preparation programs.

Representative Edmonds offered amendments to change the effective date of proposed law from Aug. 1 to upon signature of governor. Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Geymann, Hughes, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Ethan Melancon, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 852-4649, spoke in support of House Bill No. 346.

Ms. Juanita Hall, Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (APEL), 2955 West Gloria Switch Road, Carencro, LA 70520, (337) 520-9512, spoke in support of House Bill No. 346.

Ms. Christen DeRise, Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (APEL), 408 Bayard Street, New Iberia, LA 70560, (504) 450-3319, spoke in support of House Bill No. 346.

Ms. Earmer Jackson, Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (APEL), 5815 Trenton Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (504) 451-8586, spoke in support of House Bill No. 346.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 346 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 346 was reported with amendments by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Geymann, Hughes, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, 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. 834 by Representative Illg**

Representative Illg presented House Bill No. 834, which provides relative to a sports wagering account and presumptions of abandonment.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to change the qualifications for a sports wagering account to be presumed abandoned. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Geymann, Hughes, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 834 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 834 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Geymann, Hughes, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, 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.

### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue  
House Committee on Appropriations