

## House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting  
2022 Regular Session  
April 25, 2022

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:10 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 Daryl Andrew Deshotel  
Representative Mary DuBuisson  
Representative Rick Edmonds  
Representative Brett F. Geymann  
Representative John R. Illg, Jr.  
Representative Timothy P. Kerner  
Representative Rodney Lyons  
Representative C. Denise Marcelle  
Representative Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
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 Aimee Adatto Freeman  
Representative Jason Hughes

**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:**

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

**III. BUSINESS****House Bill No. 31 by Representative Tarver**

Representative Tarver presented House Bill No. 31, a constitutional amendment which dedicates a certain amount of state nonrecurring revenue to state retirement systems for supplemental benefit payments.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Remove requirement that the legislature appropriate a maximum of \$50,000,000 of nonrecurring revenue each year for payment of the benefits provided in proposed constitutional amendment.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 31 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 31 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 4 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 55 by Representative Butler**

Representative Butler presented House Bill No. 55, which provides for Medicaid coverage of dental care for certain residents of intermediate care facilities.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to make the effectiveness of proposed law subject to appropriation. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Ms. Kathy Dwyer, Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with Developmental Disabilities, 1525 Papworth Avenue, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 439-0212, spoke in support of House Bill No. 55.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 55 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 55 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 724 by Representative Bagley**

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 724, which establishes a grant program for site development and improvement.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Remove use of surplus monies for proposed law.
- (3) Divide fund established in proposed law into eight subfunds, one for each regional economic development district in proposed law.
- (4) Require Dept. of Economic Development to establish tax increment boundaries for each project under proposed law and establish a sales tax baseline for each project. Further dedicate 5% of state sales taxes collected above the baseline within the project boundaries and require deposit into the regional economic development organization's subfund.

- (5) Remove requirement that each regional economic development organization be awarded an initial grant of one million dollars and instead award each such organization an initial award in the amount of one-eighth of the initial deposit into the fund established in proposed law.
- (6) Remove requirement that a regional economic development organization obtain a 10% match for each project undertaken pursuant to proposed law and instead require each organization to apply a 10% match to each such project.
- (7) Remove requirement that each 10% local match payment be calculated as 10% of the funds spent during any calendar year and instead require the match to be calculated as 10% of the cost being paid.
- (8) Remove requirement that the treasurer, pursuant to legislative appropriation, deposit in and credit to the Louisiana Competes Fund \$8 million.
- (9) Make effectiveness of proposed law subject to appropriation.

Representative Zeringue 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, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Justyn Dixon, North Louisiana Economic Partnership (NCLEP), 333 Texas Street, Shreveport, LA 71101, (601) 209-5879, spoke in support of House Bill No. 724.

Ms. Anne Villa, Department of Economic Development (LED), 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70737, (225) 342-5395, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 724.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 724 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 724 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 1 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. 90 by Representative Marcelle**

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 90, which creates the office on women's health within the La. Department of Health and provides for the duties and functions of the office.

Ms. Alma Stewart Allen, Louisiana Center for Health Equity, 8000 Innovation Park Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 772-7029, spoke in support of House Bill No. 90.

Mr. Eugene Collins, YWCA Greater Baton Rouge, 11404 Lake Sherwood Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 288-9589, spoke in support of House Bill No. 90.

Representative McFarland offered a motion to report House Bill No. 90 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 90 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Illg, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Thompson, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

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

**House Bill No. 477 by Representative Coussan**

Representative Coussan presented House Bill No. 477, which provides for new assistant district attorney positions for various judicial districts in the state.

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 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to provide for an effective date contingent upon an appropriation of monies. 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, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Donald Landry, district attorney, 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court, P.O. Box 3306, Lafayette, LA 70502, (337) 298-0978, spoke in support of House Bill No. 477.

Mr. Stephen Dwight, district attorney, 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court, 901 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601, (337) 437-3400, spoke in support of House Bill No. 477.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 477 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 477 was reported with amendments by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, 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.

### **House Bill No. 29 by Representative Nelson**

Representative Nelson presented House Bill No. 29, a constitutional amendment which require the legislature to appropriate no less than fifty percent of nonrecurring state revenues for application to certain state retirement system unfunded accrued liability.

Ms. Katherine Whitney, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL), 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-6454, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 29.

Ms. Tina Grant, Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS), 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 270-2512, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 29.

Mr. Jan Moller, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 819-7715, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 29.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 29 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 29 was reported favorably by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 3 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 80 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 80, which restricts spending of state general fund revenue-direct to 98% of the official forecast.

*Representative McFarland in the chair.*

Mr. Jan Moller, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 819-7715, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 80.

*Chairman Zeringue in the chair.*

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 80 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 80 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, 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 3 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. 860 by Representative McFarland**

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 860, which provides relative to the use of certain monies in the Transportation Trust Fund by the Department of Transportation and Development.

Representative McFarland offered a motion to report House Bill No. 860 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 860 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Illg, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Ms. Kaitlyn Joshua, Earthworks, 4821 Inniswold Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 454-8321, spoke in support of House Bill No. 860.

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

*Representative Thompson in the chair.*

### **House Bill No. 65 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 65, which provides with respect to annual financial reports on district and local court funding and expenses.

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 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Illg, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 65 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 65 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, 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. 329 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 329, which provides for the payment of certain judgments issued by the Board of Tax Appeals for approved claims.

Representative Thompson offered amendments to retain present law for approved claims with a value of \$20,000 or below. Representative Thompson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 329 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 329 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, 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 Resolution No. 30 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Resolution No. 30, which establishes a task force to study the funding and workload of judicial districts and circuits.

Representative McFarland offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 30 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 30 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, 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.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue  
House Committee on Appropriations