

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 23, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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 Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Mary DuBuisson
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Brett F. Geymann
Representative John R. Illg, Jr.
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Christopher Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Raymond J. Crews
Representative Jason Hughes
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Francis C. Thompson, vice chairman
Representative Debbie Villio
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dazia Briscoe, committee administrative assistant
Stephanie Little, attorney

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**Senate Bill No. 394 by Senator Bernard**

Senator Bernard presented Senate Bill No. 394, which requires coverage for drugs under certain conditions if the drug is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

Representative McFarland offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 394 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 394 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Illg, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, and Turner 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. 277 by Representative Carrier

Representative Carrier presented House Bill No. 277, which provides relative to supplemental pay for tribal officers of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Change the effective date to July 1, 2023.

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, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, and Turner voted yea.

Ms. Mary- Patricia Wray, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, 2360 Tulip Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 395-9961, spoke in support of House Bill No. 277.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 277 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 277 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, and Turner 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. 74 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 74, which provides relative to supplemental pay for tribal officers of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Change the effective date to July 1, 2023.

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, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Carrier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 74 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 74 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, and Turner 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. 1057 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 1057, which provides for an emergency fuel reserve.

Mr. Ben Russo, Central Louisiana Regional Port, 600 River Port Road, Alexandria, LA 71303, (318) 473-1848 spoke in support of House Bill No. 1057.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1057. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 1057 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, and Turner 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. 348 by Senator Cloud

Senator Cloud presented Senate Bill No. 348, which provides for a process for a prior authorization for a particular healthcare service, procedure, or prescription drug.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to add a provision authorizing a health plan to electronically furnish information as required pursuant to proposed law regarding prerequisites for a particular healthcare service, procedure, or prescription drug to be prior authorized by the health plan. 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, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 348 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 348 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 347 by Senator Milligan

Senator Milligan presented Senate Bill No. 347, which authorizes the audit of certain vendor documentation in procurement of surveillance equipment by the office of the legislature auditor.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 347 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 347 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, and Turner 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. 471 by Senator Milligan

Senator Milligan presented Senate Bill No. 471, which provides for foreign sources to fund certain gifts and contracts to the state or political subdivisions.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 471 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 471 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, and Turner 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. 116 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 116, which creates the office on women's health within the Louisiana Department of Health.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 116 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 116 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Miguez, Romero, and Turner 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.

House Bill No. 650 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 650, which provides for Medicaid coverage of prescription human milk.

Dr. Amanda Dumas, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke in support of House Bill No. 650.

Ms. Kimberly Novod, Saul's Light, 219 Bermuda Street, New Orleans, LA 70114, (504) 913-4095, spoke in support of House Bill No. 650.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 650 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 650 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Miguez, and Romero voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 651 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 651, which provides relative to insurance coverage for prescription breast milk.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add a provision limiting coverage to inpatient and outpatient benefits for a maximum of two months for medically necessary donor human milk with a prescription from the infant's pediatrician or licensed pediatric provider.
- (3) Allow a health coverage plan to limit coverage pursuant to proposed law to donor human milk obtained from a member bank of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America.
- (4) Change the term "breast milk" to "human milk" throughout proposed law.
- (5) Require new health coverage plans issued on and after Jan. 1, 2023, to comply with proposed law. Further require health coverage plans in effect prior to Jan. 1, 2023, to convert to conform to proposed law on or before the renewal date of the plan, and no later than Jan. 1, 2024.

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, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, and Romero voted yea.

Dr. Amanda Dumas, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke in support of House Bill No. 651.

Ms. Kimberly Novod, Saul's Light, 219 Bermuda Street, New Orleans, LA 70114, (504) 913-4095, spoke in support of House Bill No. 651.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 651 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 651 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, and Romero voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 412 by Senator Talbot

Senator Talbot presented Senate Bill No. 412, which provides for the Insure Louisiana Incentive Program.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Establish the Insure Louisiana Incentive Fund in the state treasury to fund the grants awarded pursuant to proposed 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, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, and Turner voted yea.

Ms. Denise Gardner, Louisiana Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 94214, Baton Rouge, LA, 70804, (225) 342-9189, spoke for information only.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 412 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 412 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, and Turner 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. 739 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 739, which provides for placement of a statue of Oscar James Dunn in the state capitol.

Representative Lyons offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove requirement that a statute of Oscar James Dunn be placed in Memorial Hall. Instead require a bust or other appropriate memorial of Oscar James Dunn be placed in Memorial Hall.

- (2) Remove a provision providing that the Lt. Gov. administers monies in the Oscar Dunn Memorial Fund. Instead provide that the presiding officers of the legislature administer monies in the fund.
- (3) Remove provisions establishing the Oscar James Dunn Memorial Commission and setting forth its powers, duties, and functions.
- (4) Require the chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the president of the Senate, in consultation with the members of the family of Oscar James Dunn, to determine the design and related content of the memorial provided for in proposed law. Further require the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate to determine placement of the memorial within Memorial Hall.

Representative Lyons 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, Edmonds, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered amendments to:

- (1) Require the state treasurer to transfer \$75,000 from the state general fund into the Oscar Dunn Memorial Fund.
- (2) Change the effective date to signature of governor.

Representative Lyons 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, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 739 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 739 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, and Turner voted yea.

House Bill No. 970 by Representative White

Representative Zeringue voluntarily deferred House Bill No. 970, which creates an early childhood literacy program for the purpose of delivering an age-appropriate book monthly to eligible children under the age of five.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 970. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 970 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Edmonds, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, and Turner 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. 499 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 499, which creates a fund for the purpose of funding tuition exemptions and reduction of textbook costs for persons who are age fifty-five or older.

Representative Lyons offered amendments to:

- (1) Specify that the initial deposit into the PRIME Fund occurs on July 1, 2023.
- (2) Specify that the automatic transfers into the PRIME Fund each year are from the state general fund.

Representative Lyons 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, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 499 with amendments, to which Representative Turner objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 499 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, and Romero voted yea. Representatives Zeringue, Miguez, and Turner voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 769 by Representative Wright

Representative Zeringue voluntarily deferred House Bill No. 769, which provides relative to ignition interlock devices and maintenance services.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 769. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 769 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and

0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, and Turner voted yea.

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

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Illg offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations