

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2016 First Extraordinary Session
February 19, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Franklin J. Foil, Vice 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. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Mark Abraham
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley
Representative John A. Berthelot
Representative Robert E. Billiot
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Charles R. Chaney
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Franklin J. Foil, Vice Chairman
Representative Lance Harris
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman
Representative James K. Armes, III
Representative Steve E. Pylant
Representative Scott M. Simon

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Penny B. Bouquet, Administrative Secretary
Mr. Peter G. E. Conroy, Legislative Analyst
Ms. Nancy Keaton, Legislative Analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Ms. Faye Talbot, Sergeant at Arms
Ms. Vivian Hurst, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**IV. OTHER BUSINESS****Public Safety Services**

Mr. Mark Antoon, Budget Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-7477, gave an overview and discussed the FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 budgets for the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Colonel Michael D. Edmonson, Deputy Secretary of Public Safety & Corrections and Superintendent of Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-6006, gave introductory remarks to the committee and discussed the FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 budgets for DPS.

Ms. Karen St. Germain, Commissioner of the Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV), 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-6146, gave introductory remarks to the committee on behalf of OMV.

Colonel Edmonson and Commissioner St. Germain discussed, with Representative Schroder, the fees collected by the Office of Debt Recovery, and Mr. Antoon discussed the legislation associated with the fund.

Mr. Barry Dussé, Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-120, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7005, discussed, with Representative Schroder, the correlation between the FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 budget reductions and the increase in the number of "Table of Organization" positions within DPS.

Colonel Edmonson discussed, with Representative Bagley, the possible duplication of services between the different law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

Colonel Edmonson discussed, with Representative Carter, the \$2.8 million budget reduction to the Office of State Police and how that effects law enforcement's level of readiness.

Colonel Edmonson discussed, with Representative Edmonds, the continued efforts of law enforcement in the New Orleans area for FY16-17 and the budget reductions to OMV.

Commissioner St. Germain and Colonel Edmonson discussed, with Representative Edmonds, the Debt Recovery Fund.

Ms. Staci Hoyt, Deputy Commissioner of OMV, 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-6146, and Commissioner St. Germain, discussed, with Representative Bacala and Representative Leger, the fees and penalties assessed to uninsured motorists.

Colonel Edmonson and Commissioner St. Germain discussed, with Representative Bacala and Representative Leger, the online services offered by OMV.

Corrections Services

Mr. Antoon gave an overview and discussed the FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 budgets for the Department of Corrections (DOC).

Mr. James M. LeBlanc, Secretary, and Mr. Thomas Bickham, Undersecretary for DOC, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6740, gave introductory remarks and discussed the FY15-16 budgets for DOC. (See Exhibit A)

Mr. LeBlanc discussed, with Representative Foil, the plan for prison closures and local inmate housing.

Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Bickham discussed, with Representative Carter, the state's incarceration rate, the recidivism rate, and House Concurrent Resolution 82 from the 2015 Regular Session.

Mr. LeBlanc discussed, with Representative McFarland, the community impact of prison closures in Winn and Allen parishes.

Mr. Bickham discussed the fees associated with offenders on probation and parole with Representative Schroder.

Mr. LeBlanc discussed, with Representative Smith, the impact of budget reductions on re-entry programs in the local and state prison system.

Mr. Michael Ranatza, Executive Director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-8402, discussed, with Representative Bacala, the FY15-16 proposed budget reduction to local inmate housing.

Mr. Jay Dardenne, Commissioner of Administration, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, addressed the committee regarding the LATrac financial system. (See Exhibit B)

Youth Services

Mr. Antoon gave an overview and discussed the FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 budgets for the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ).

Dr. Mary Livers, Deputy Secretary of OJJ, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 287-7900, gave introductory remarks, an overview of, and discussed the FY15-16 budget for OJJ. (See Exhibit C)

The meeting recessed at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened at 1:41 p.m.

Department of Economic Development

Mr. Chris Henry, Budget Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-7477, gave an overview and discussed the FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 budgets for the Department of Economic Development (LED).

Mr. Don Pierson, LED Secretary, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3000, gave introductory remarks and discussed the FY15-16 and FY16-17 budgets for the department.

Mr. Pierson discussed, with Representative Berthelot and Representative Smith, the status of NewCorp, Inc. projects.

Mr. Pierson discussed, with Representative Billiot, the status of the projects in the Avondale area.

Mr. Pierson discussed, with Representative Zeringue, the status of the Viking Cruise Line construction projects.

Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Blake Ruiz, Budget Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-7477, gave an overview and discussed the FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 budgets for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, DEQ Secretary, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-5337, gave introductory remarks and discussed the department's FY15-16 and FY16-17 budgets.

Dr. Brown discussed, with Representative Zeringue, the Waste Tire Management Program.

Ms. Karyn Andrews, Undersecretary for DEQ, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-5337, discussed, with Representative Abraham and Representative Edmonds, the FY15-16 budget for DEQ.

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Mr. Chris Keaton, Deputy Director for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-1964, gave an overview and discussed the FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 budgets for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (DWF).

Mr. Charles J. Melancon, DWF Secretary, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, (225) 765-2800, gave introductory remarks and discussed the FY15-16 and FY16-17 budgets for the department.

Mr. Brian McClinton, Undersecretary for Management and Finance, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, (225)765-5021, discussed, with Representative Edmonds, the status of the BP oil spill settlement funds.

Mr. Cole Garrett, Legislative Liaison and Policy Attorney for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, and Mr. Melancon discussed, with Representative Zeringue, the oyster lease moratorium.

Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Henry gave an overview and discussed the FY 15-16 and FY 16-17 budgets for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Mr. Thomas Harris, DNR Secretary, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2710, gave an overview and discussed the department's FY15-16 and FY16-17 budgets.

Ms. Beverly P. Hodges, DNR Undersecretary, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4540, discussed DNR's FY15-16 and FY16-17 budget reductions with Representative Abraham. (See Exhibit D)

Mr. Harris and Ms. Hodges discussed, with Representative Zeringue, the impact of FY15-16 and FY16-17 budget reductions to DNR.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations