

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
May 31, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative John A. Berthelot, member of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 11:06 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 Charles R. Chaney
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Franklin J. Foil
Representative Lance Harris
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman
Representative James K. Armes, III
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Bob Hensgens
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Steve E. Pylant
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.

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:

None

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29 by Senator Chabert

Senator Chabert presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29, which requested the Coastal Protection and Restoration Financing Corporation to study the feasibility of employing financing techniques to convert future BP settlement payments into current assets to be deposited in and credited to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund.

Senator Chabert discussed the similarities between the BP settlement and the tobacco settlement, and the estimated cost to restore the coast of Louisiana with Representative Smith.

Mr. Chip Kline, Deputy Director for Coastal Activities, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4367, discussed, with Representative Smith, the makeup of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Financing Corporation.

Senator Chabert and Mr. Kline discussed the timeline for receiving the BP settlement payments with Representative Abraham.

Senator Chabert discussed the amount of land lost each year and the plans for coastal restoration with Representative Bacala.

There was no further discussion on the resolution.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Lance Harris, McFarland, Miller, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

A copy of the witness cards for individuals (who were present, but did not testify) in support of, in opposition to, and to provide information on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29 is available upon request.

Senate Bill No. 407 by Senator Milkovich

Senator Milkovich presented Senate Bill No. 407, which required publication of certain contracts and reports on the internet, and created a task force which is authorized to study and make annual assessments of state contracts.

Representative Berthelot offered a technical amendment, and offered a motion to adopt the amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Hodges, McFarland, Miller, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senator Milkovich discussed the need to create another task force with Representatives McFarland and Smith. He also discussed the need for a sunset of the task force with Representative Bacala.

Representative Bacala offered an amendment to sunset the task force on June 30, 2020, and offered a motion to adopt the amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Hodges, McFarland, Miller, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senator Milkovich discussed the length of time it would take for the task force to review all state contracts and the cost of the task force with Representative Bagley.

Representative Foil in the chair.

Senator Milkovich discussed choosing members from the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) for the task force with Representative McFarland.

Senator Milkovich discussed the general purpose of the bill with Representatives Abraham, Amedée, and Richard.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 407 with amendments, to which Representative Smith objected. Senate Bill No. 407 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, McFarland, Richard, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Miller and Smith voted nay.

Senate Bill No. 466 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 466, which provided a procedure for the LSU Board of Supervisors and the Commissioner of Administration to seek approval from JLCB and the legislature to proceed with the sale of a hospital.

Senator Hewitt discussed the Natural Resources Committee's role in the sale of a hospital with Representative Foil.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 466 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 466 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, McFarland, Miller, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 460 by Senator LaFleur

Representative Berthelot presented Senate Bill No. 460 for Senator LaFleur, which provided for the disposition and reporting of fees and self-generated revenues by state agencies and the State Treasurer.

Mr. Peter Conroy, Legislative Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6292, discussed, with Representative Bagley, the general purpose of the bill.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 460 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 460 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, McFarland, Miller, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Chaney offered a motion to adjourn, to which there was no objection. The motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hodges, McFarland, Miller, Richard, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations