

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 26, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:09 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 Aimee Adatto Freeman
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 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 Jason Hughes
Representative Blake Miguez

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dazia Briscoe, committee administrative assistant
Stephanie Little, attorney

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

House Bill No. 156 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 156, which provides relative to criminal history review with respect to teacher certification.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 156 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 156 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Marcelle, 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, (225) 342-5840, spoke in support of House Bill No. 156.

Lieutenant Jared Sandifer, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-6912, spoke for information only on House Bill 156.

Ms. Amanda Moore, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-6095, spoke for information only on House Bill 156.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. 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. 452 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 452, which creates and provides for a program to provide state funding for the education of certain students who have been victims of bullying and are not enrolled in public school.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove provision that specifies that funds in the account are not taxable income of the parent.
- (2) Remove 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, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Dr. Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute for Public Policy, 342 Lafayette Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, no phone number provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 452.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Bill No. 452 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 452 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 136 by Representative Marino

Representative Marino presented House Bill No. 136, which requires dyslexia education as a component of teacher education programs.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to add a provision requiring each institution to designate a faculty member to teach the specialized course work provided in proposed law. Requires the designated faculty member to receive specialized training to provide the instruction required by proposed law. Further provides that, upon designation and training of the faculty member, the governing authority of the program is required to eliminate the requirement for three credit hours of other instruction. 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, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Ms. Kayla Reggio, Dyslexia Resource Center, 3164 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 405-9207, spoke in support of House Bill No. 136.

Ms. Laura Cassidy, Dyslexia Resource Center, 3164 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 802-9941, spoke in support of House Bill No. 136.

Dr. Jim Henderson, University of Louisiana System, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (310) 426-7104, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 136.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 136 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 136 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Turner, Villio, and Wheat 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. 194 by Representative Butler

Representative Butler presented House Bill No. 194, which creates and provides for a program to provide state funding for the education of students with exceptionalities not enrolled in public school.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove provision that specifies that funds in the account are not taxable income of the parent.
- (2) Remove 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, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 194 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 194 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 196 by Representative Nelson

Representative Nelson presented House Bill No. 196, which creates the Stimulating More Advanced Research and Technology (SMART) Program and the SMART Fund for the purpose of awarding grants to support research at public postsecondary education institutions.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add institutions that are members of the La. Assoc. of Independent Colleges and Universities as eligible recipients of grants pursuant to proposed law.
- (3) Add requirement that grants be awarded such that the percentage of all grant amounts in a year that is awarded to historically black colleges and universities is approximately equal to the percentage of all students enrolled in postsecondary education institutions who are enrolled at historically black colleges and universities.

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, Deshotel, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove requirement that each year the treasurer transfer \$150,000,000 from the state general fund into the fund.
- (2) Add requirement that on July 1, 2026, the treasurer transfer \$150,000,000 from the state general fund into the fund. Thereafter, each July 1, require the treasurer to transfer from the state general fund into the fund an amount sufficient to bring the balance of the fund up to \$150,000,000.

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, Geymann, Illg, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered an in-concept amendment to make the effectiveness of proposed law subject to appropriation of funds by the legislature. 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, Carrier, Freeman, Illg, Lyons, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative DuBuisson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 196 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 196 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Freeman, Illg, Lyons, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Romero, 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. 656 by Representative Geymann

Representative Zeringue voluntarily deferred House Bill No. 656, which limits the amount of recurring revenue that can be recognized by the Revenue Estimating Conference.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 656. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 656 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Freeman, Illg, Lyons, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Romero, 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. 845 by Representative Geymann

Representative Zeringue voluntarily deferred House Bill No. 845, which prohibits changes in budget authority that would allow certain federal funds to be used on ordinary recurring expenses of state government.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 845. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 845 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Freeman, Illg, Lyons, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 1052 by Representative Landry

Representative Landry presented House Bill No. 1052, which establishes the Hazard Mitigation Revolving Loan 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 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Lyons, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Add provision requiring GOHSEP to establish application procedures and eligibility criteria for loans from the fund.
- (2) Add provisions relative to use of loan proceeds by political subdivisions for offering loans to private property owners to use for hazard mitigation projects for buildings.

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, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Lyons, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Casey Tingle, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), 7667 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-7500, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1052.

Mr. Austin Feldbaum, City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-8740, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1052.

Mr. Roderick Scott, Flood Mitigation Industry Association, P.O. Box 1126, Mandeville, LA 70478, (985) 273-9590, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1052.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1052 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1052 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, 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.

House Bill No. 567 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 567, which creates the Lifestyle Choices pilot program.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Bill No. 567 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 567 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Dustin Miller, 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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 14 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 824 by Representative Schlegel

Representative Schlegel presented House Bill No. 824, which creates and provides for a program to provide state funding for the education of students not enrolled in a public school.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 824. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 824 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Carpenter, Carrier, DuBuisson, Freeman, Illg, Lyons, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 5 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 852 by Representative Schlegel

Representative Schlegel presented House Bill No. 852, which creates a book delivery program for certain public school students.

Mr. Larry Holland, Scholastic Inc., 17 New Bethel Road, Tylertown, MS 39667, (601) 303-6496, spoke in support of House Bill No. 824.

Representative Edmonds in the chair.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 852 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 852 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, 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. 736 by Representative Beullieu

Representative Beullieu presented House Bill No. 736, which establishes the Athletic Trainer Professional Development Program in the Dept. of Education and provides for administration, qualification, and implementation of the various components of the program.

Representative Edmonds offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Delete requirement that the superintendent of education promulgate rules necessary to carry out proposed law. Instead requires BESE to promulgate such rules.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Edmonds offered an in-concept amendment to make the effectiveness of proposed law subject to appropriation of funds by the legislature. Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Jason Dunavant, Louisiana Athletic Trainers Association (LATA), 1905 Filhiol Avenue, Monroe, LA 71203, (318) 512-5679, spoke in support of House Bill No. 736.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 736 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 736 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat 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.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Dustin Miller offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations