

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 2, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Rick Edmonds, member of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:12 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 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 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 Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Jason Hughes

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dazia Briscoe, committee administrative assistant
Stephanie Little, attorney

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**House Bill No. 884 by Representative Beaulieu**

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 884, which provides for changes in the expenditure limit calculation.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to add the requirement that certain expenditures be included in any calculation of expenditures in relation to the expenditure limit. Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove proposed law provision establishing the expenditure limit as the lesser of the amount established by the legislature pursuant to present constitution or the total amount appropriated by the legislature from the state general fund and dedicated funds as of December first for the current fiscal year, excluding changes to budget authority made by the commissioner of administration or the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, plus an amount equal to that amount times the growth factor if the growth factor is positive.
- (2) Add provision establishing the expenditure limit as the lesser of the amount established by the legislature pursuant to present constitution or the sum of the total amounts appropriated by act of the legislature from the state general fund and dedicated funds as of July first of the fiscal year in which the calculation is made, less amounts appropriated from the state general fund and dedicated funds that were vetoed by the governor and not overridden by the legislature, plus the total amount of non-appropriated constitutional requirements reflected on the most recent budget status report submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget pursuant to

present law plus an amount equal to that sum times the growth factor, if the growth factor is positive.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 884 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 884 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, 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. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 978 by Representative Miguez

Representative Miguez presented House Bill No. 978, which provides relative to prohibition on certain governmental entity contracts with companies that discriminate against firearm and ammunition industries.

Representative Edmonds offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove wholly owned subsidiaries, majority-owned subsidiaries, parent companies, or affiliates of those entities or associations from the definition of "company" in proposed law.
- (2) Provide that a company does not "discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association" if it refuses to engage in business with, refrains from continuing an existing business relationship with, or alters or terminates an existing business relationship for any ordinary business reason that is specific to the customer and not based solely on an entity's or association's status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments to prohibit government entities from doing business with businesses that discriminates against the NAACP. Representative Marcelle offered a motion

to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Miguez objected. After further discussion, Representative Marcelle withdrew her amendment. No vote was taken.

Representative Miguez offered a motion to report House Bill No. 978 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 978 was reported with amendments by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

In order for the record to reflect her opposition to House Bill No. 978, Representative Marcelle offered a motion to reconsider the vote by which House Bill No. 978 was reported with amendments, to which Representative Miguez objected. After further discussion, Representative Miguez withdrew his objection.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to reconsider House Bill No. 978. Without objection, House Bill No. 978 was reconsidered by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Darren LaSorte, National Shooting Sports Association, 400 Northwest Capitol Street, Washington DC 20001, (703) 328-3454, spoke in support of House Bill No. 978.

Representative Miguez offered a motion to report House Bill No. 978 with amendments, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 978 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea. Representatives Freeman, Lyons, and Marcelle voted nay.

Representative Thompson in the chair.

House Bill No. 612 by Representative Huval

Representative Huval presented House Bill No. 612, which provides for the Louisiana Fortify Homes Program.

Representative Thompson offered amendments to add provision establishing requirements for calculation and deposit of self-generated revenues of the La. Dept. of Insurance into the fund, up to a maximum of \$10 million per year. 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 Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to provide that proposed law terminates at midnight on June 30, 2025. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Crews offered an amendment to add a provision restricting use of grant funding under proposed law to the retrofit of roofs to allow them to meet or exceed the "fortified roof" standard of the Ins. Inst. for Business and Home Safety. Representative Crews offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Warren Byrd, Louisiana Department of Insurance, 1702 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-203, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 612.

Ms. Denise Gardner, Louisiana Department of Insurance, 1702 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9189, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 612.

Mr. Tom Travis, Louisiana Department of Insurance, 1702 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2136, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 612.

Representative Turner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 612 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 612 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, 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: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1041 by Representative Lyons

Representative Thompson voluntarily deferred House Bill No. 1041, which provides relative to the Small Rental Property Program administered by the office of community development.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1041. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 1041 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, 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: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 845 by Representative Geymann

Representative Thompson 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 Thompson 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 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, 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: 1 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 63 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 63, which provides for an exception for certain information required to be submitted by a nongovernmental entity.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 63 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 63 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 796 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 796, which establishes the Small Business Innovation Fund.

Representative Thompson offered amendments to:

- (1) Make effectiveness of proposed law subject to appropriation.
- (2) Remove provision requiring the La. Economic Development Corp. to administer the fund.
- (3) Add provision requiring La. Dept. of Economic Development to use the monies in the fund for awarding grants pursuant to proposed law and requiring the La.

Economic Development Corp. to work with the LSU La. Technology Transfer Office to administer the awards to selected grant applicants.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 796 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 796 was reported with amendments by a vote of 20 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Freeman, 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: 13 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 786 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 786, which establishes the Small Business Innovation Retention Fund.

Representative Lyons offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add provision requiring the Dept. of Economic Development to use monies in the fund for awarding grants pursuant to proposed law.
- (3) Lower administrative cost allowed to be paid from the fund from \$115,000 per year to \$105,000 per year.
- (4) Make effectiveness of proposed law subject to appropriation.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Pressly, District 6, 900 Pierremont Road, Shreveport, LA 71106, (318) 862-9920, spoke in sponsorship of House Bill No. 786.

Dr. Ronald Malone, Aquaculture Systems Technologies, 2120 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (802) 225-2934, spoke in support of House Bill No. 786.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 786 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 786 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 795 by Representative Pressly

Representative Pressly presented House Bill No. 795, which establishes the Small Business Innovation Recruitment Fund.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Provide for payment of administrative fees up to \$105,000 in fiscal year 2025-2026.
- (3) Add language that the Dept. of Economic Development shall use monies in the fund for awarding grants pursuant to proposed law.
- (4) Make effectiveness of proposed law subject to appropriation.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Willard, District 97, 2000 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, LA 70148, (504) 283-4261, spoke in sponsorship of House Bill No. 795.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 795 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 795 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 891 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 891, which provides relative to the procurement of internet services and wide area networks services and systems by state agencies.

Mr. Dustin Glover, Office of Technology Services, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1000, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 891.

Mr. Devin King, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 891.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 891 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 891 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, 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.

Chairman Zeringue in the chair.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 60, which requests a joint subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance Committee to research, evaluate, and make recommendations relative to the office of technology services.

Representative McFarland offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 656 by Representative Geymann

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

Representative Romero offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.

- (2) Remove requirement that the Revenue Estimating Conference designate all recurring revenues collected above the limit calculated in proposed law as nonrecurring. Instead requires such monies to be designated as "recurring above the revenue limit".
- (3) Remove provisions authorizing the legislature to change the revenue limit through passage of a concurrent resolution with a 2/3 vote.
- (4) Remove provision prohibiting applicability of proposed law if the revenue limit for the current year does not exceed the actual collections of state general fund revenues for the most recently completed fiscal year.
- (5) Change the calculation of the annual growth factor in proposed law to be a weighted average of the annual percentage rate of change of certain economic indicators over twenty-five years.

Representative Romero offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 656 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 656 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, 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. 648 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 648, which provides relative to the Crime Victims Reparations Act.

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 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Ms. Amanda Tonkovich, Crime Victims Reparations Board, 2525 North Derbigny Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, (206) 618-6377, spoke in support of House Bill 648.

Representative McFarland offered a motion to report House Bill No. 648 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 648 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Freeman, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, and Wheat 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.

House Bill No. 918 by Representative Wheat

Representative Wheat presented House Bill No. 918, which provides relative to supplemental pay.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to increase the total number of members of the board of review from seven to eight and add one voting member from the La. City Marshals and City Constables Assoc. 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, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered an in-concept amendment to increase the total number of members of the board of review from eight to nine. Add one nonvoting member from the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association. 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, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Bry Layrisson, Louisiana Municipal Supplemental Pay Board, 195 North Sixth Street, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, (985) 969-3898, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 918.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 918 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 918 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Romero offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Geymann, Illg, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
House Committee on Appropriations