

## House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting  
2022 Regular Session  
May 9, 2022

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 Raymond J. Crews  
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel  
Representative Mary DuBuisson  
Representative Rick Edmonds  
Representative Brett F. Geymann  
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 Christopher Turner  
Representative Debbie Villio  
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman  
Representative Jason Hughes  
Representative John R. Illg, Jr.  
Representative Francis C. Thompson, vice chairman

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dazia Briscoe, committee administrative assistant  
Stephanie Little, attorney

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

**III. BUSINESS****House Bill No. 78 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 78, which provides relative to the state's annual comprehensive financial report.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to repeal provisions requiring enhanced audit oversight and requirements for parishes with a population between 225,000 and 250,000 persons according to the latest federal decennial census. 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, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, Edmonds, Kerner, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 78 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 78 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, Edmonds, Kerner, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

**House Bill No. 100 by Representative Deshotel**

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 100, which provides relative to the Avoyelles Parish Local Government Gaming Mitigation Fund.

Representative Carrier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 100 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 100 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 260 by Senator Hewitt**

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 260, which provides relative to the Community and Family Support System Fund.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 260 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 260 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, 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: 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: 7 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 494 by Representative Romero**

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 494, which provides relative to brewery operations.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 494 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 494 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, 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: 2 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 524 by Representative Lyons**

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 524, which establishes a program for needs assessment and coordination of services for people with disabilities affected by disasters.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to add a provision requiring the DACE to provide training to persons, entities, and government agencies that serve people with disabilities in order to meet the needs of people with disabilities that are impacted by disasters. 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, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to make the effectiveness of proposed law subject to appropriation. 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, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Ms. Bambi Polotzola, Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-7547, spoke in support of House Bill No. 524.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 524 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 524 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Turner, 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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 692 by Representative Larvadain**

Representative Larvadain presented House Bill No. 692, which provides for the Louisiana Named Storm Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority.

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, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove provisions authorizing employment of personnel of the authority.
- (2) Remove provisions authorizing the authority to contract for personnel.

Representative Geymann 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, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to add a termination date of Aug. 1, 2025, for proposed law. Representative Bacala 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, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Eric Holl, Real Reform Louisiana, 640 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (703) 399-4841, spoke in support of House Bill No. 692.

Mr. Jim Donelon, Department of Insurance, 1702 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7275, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 692.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 692 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 692 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

### **Senate Bill No. 3 by Senator Allain**

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 3, which provides for distribution of monies collected from enforcement actions of coastal use permits.

Representative DuBuisson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 3 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 3 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 2 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **Senate Bill No. 23 by Senator Allain**

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 23, which provides for the deposit of monies into the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 23 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 23 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

**House Bill No. 526 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 526, which requires school boards to post certain fiscal information on their websites.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 526 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 526 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. 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: 4 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 23 by Representative Harris**

Representative Harris presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 23, which provides for legislative approval of the MFP formula for FY 2022-2023.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 23 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 23 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Turner, 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. 958 by Representative Dustin Miller**

Representative Dustin Miller presented House Bill No. 958, which provides for licensure and regulation of nurse staffing agencies by the Louisiana Department of Health.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Remove provisions making the nurse staffing agency liable for penalties for operation without a license and instead make the person, partnership, corporation, or entity operating the nurse staffing agency without a license liable for penalties.

- (3) Remove provisions requiring the nurse staffing agency to submit an initial licensing application pursuant to proposed law and instead require the person, partnership, corporation, or entity operating the nurse staffing agency to submit the application.

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, Carpenter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Mark Berger, Louisiana Nursing Home Association, 7844 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 927-5642, spoke in support of House Bill No. 958.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 958 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 958 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Carpenter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, 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. 933 by Representative Stagni**

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 933, which provides relative to emergency preparedness among licensed nursing homes.

Ms. Kim Humbles, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 933.

Representative Dustin Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Add provision requiring each emergency preparedness plan adopted pursuant to proposed law to address the supply of emergency electrical power in instances when primary power in the nursing home is lost but evacuation from the nursing home is not required.
- (2) Add provision prohibiting LDH from issuing or renewing a license of a nursing home that has received a letter of rejection of its emergency preparedness plan.
- (3) Require emergency preparedness plans adopted after initial implementation of proposed law to contain the same information as the initial plan adopted pursuant to proposed law.

- (4) Add provision requiring the fire marshal to coordinate with out-of-state counterparts for inspection, review, approval, and surveys under proposed law of out-of-state non-licensed sheltering sites identified in proposed emergency preparedness plans.
- (5) Add waivers of liability for the Dept. of Transportation and Development, the office of state fire marshal, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and the La. Emergency Response Network, and employees of such entities, for emergency preparedness activities and responsibilities pursuant to proposed law in the event of death or injury or damage to property as a result of such activities.

Representative Dustin Miller 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, Carpenter, Crews, Deshotel, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Romero, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative McFarland offered amendments to:

- (1) Add requirement that any employees needed by LDH for the implementation and execution of proposed law shall be filled utilizing existing department vacancies and associated funding.
- (2) Remove provisions requiring the rules of the department to include requirements, timelines, and procedures for after-action reports.

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

Representative McFarland offered a motion to report House Bill No. 933 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 933 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, Deshotel, Edmonds, Kerner, Marcelle, McFarland, Dustin Miller, Romero, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

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

#### **House Bill No. 707 by Representative Duplessis**

Representative Duplessis presented House Bill No. 707, which provides relative to the expungement of criminal records.



Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add provision requiring a clerk to take certain action when unable to verify and identify a record identified for automatic expungement.
- (3) Add provision urging and requesting the La. Supreme Court to adopt rules to carry out the provisions of proposed law.

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, Carpenter, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative McFarland offered amendments to add a provision making proposed law effective if and when an Act or Acts originating in the 2022 Regular Session of the legislature making specific appropriations to the office of state police and the La. Supreme Court for the implementation of proposed law becomes effective. Representative McFarland 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, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove requirement that the district attorney identify records as expunged by automation.
- (2) Add requirement that the district attorney acknowledge records as expunged by automation.

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, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Captain Jonas Martin, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-4935, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 707.

Ms. Debbie Hudnall, Louisiana Clerks of Court, 10202 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 293-1162, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 707.

Mr. Hillar Moore, East Baton Rouge District Attorney, 222 St. Louis Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 389-3400, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 707.

Mr. Jermaine Guillory, East Baton Rouge District Attorney, 222 St. Louis Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 389-3400, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 707.

Colonel Lamar Davis, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-6118, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 707.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 707 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 707 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McFarland, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 17 in support and 1 for information only. 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: 4 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **Senate Bill No. 48 by Senator Reese**

On behalf of Senator Reese, Representative Zeringue presented Senate Bill No. 48, which provides for changes to the Water Sector Program.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Repeal provision requiring JLCB approval for any monies to be expended from the Water Sector Fund.
- (2) Add provision authorizing the commission to approve adjustments to grant awards for a project for certain enumerated reasons. Further provides that such adjustments shall be reported to JLCB but do not require approval of JLCB.
- (3) Add provision requiring the division to submit a quarterly status update to the commission and JLCB.

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, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 48 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 48 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, 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. 909 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 909, which establishes a continuum of care program for certain pregnant women and parents of young children.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 909 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 909 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 4 in opposition. 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: 5 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 1018 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 1018, which establishes the Temporary Sales Tax Fund and provides for deposit of certain state sales tax revenue into the fund.

Representative Edmonds offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Exclude the portion of Temporary Sales Tax monies dedicated to the Transportation Trust Fund pursuant R.S. 48:77.

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 Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Edmonds offered amendments to:

- (1) Require any funding in a subfund that is above the amount needed to fully fund the project be deposited into the Non-Federal Eligible Highway Program Subfund.
- (2) Require the Department of Transportation and Development to divide the monies in the Non-Federal Eligible Highway Program subfund equally among its nine highway districts.

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 Zeringue, Bacala, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, McFarland, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Charles Borjon II, Sierra Club Delta Chapter, 500 Jesse Stone Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70813, (562) 922-9964, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1018.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1018 with amendments, to which Representative McFarland objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Bacala, Carrier, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Romero, and Villio voted yea. Representatives Zeringue, Adams, Crews, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Turner, and Wheat voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 1 in opposition. 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, Carrier, Crews, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Geymann, Kerner, Lyons, McFarland, Romero, Turner, Villio, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jerome "Zee" Zeringue  
House Committee on Appropriations