$1.59 BILLION BILL OK'D IN LA. HOUSE

Approval Is Given After 3 Days of Debate

By JAMES H. GILLIS
(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)
BATON ROUGE, La.—A state general appropriations bill of $1,597,187,167 was passed by the House of Representatives Monday by a 95 to 3 vote after three days of deliberation and debate.

The bill as passed by the House and sent to the Senate represents an increase of $31,080,109 over the original bill of $1,566,107,058 introduced on behalf of Gov. John J. McKeithen's administration.

The House in three days of Committee of the Whole action added $6,288,963 to the Louisiana Legislative Digest in Sec. I, Page 7, Other legislative stories in Sec. I, Pages 7, 11.

$24,791,146 which its appropriations committee had tacked on to the original measure.

However, although the bill had mounted in total during the first two days of Committee of the Whole Action, Monday more money was lopped out of it than was added to it. This was due to the elimination of a $2.5 million appropriation for a football stadium at Northeast Louisiana State University in Monroe which had been added by the appropriations committee.

The additions made in the bill Monday totaled $2,496,356, which were more than offset by the stadium appropriation, resulting in a net reduction of $3,644 in the total, which had been added during the first three days of Committee of the Whole Action.

The appropriations added in Monday's actions were as follows:

Public school distribution fund for pay raises, $887,000.

Adult education, $1,234,356.

Louisiana State University to assist it in augmenting its status as a federal land grant institution by making it also a "sea grant" institution, $250,000.

Sowela Vocational and Industrial School in Lake Charles

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In the Riders section, Ed Dill, a New Orleans area rider, added commentary. The last paragraph of the Rider section was removed.

FULLY AMENDED

The amendments which had been introduced were fully amended to the point where the House would have to vote on them as a package. The amendments were presented in the following order:

1. The amendment to the budget for the Department of Education
2. The amendment to the budget for the Department of Labor
3. The amendment to the budget for the Department of Public Works

The amendments were debated and voted on by the House, with each amendment being approved or rejected. The final vote on the budget was taken, and the budget was approved by the House.

REP. ROBERT MUNSON

Rep. Munson addressed the House with a motion to amend the budget. The motion was seconded by Rep. Alex McGehee, and the amendment was approved by the House.

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In the House, Rep. Gremillion announced that he would be stepping down from his position as Speaker of the House. He cited the need for new leadership and the desire to focus on his own constituents. The House was called to order, and Rep. Gremillion was allowed to make a farewell address.

FINANCIAL CLOSING

In the financial closing, Rep. Gremillion discussed the state budget and the need for new revenue sources. He proposed an amendment to raise the sales tax, and the amendment was introduced and debated.

The amendment was approved by the House, and the budget was passed. The Finance Committee met later in the day to discuss the budget and make any necessary adjustments.