

HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting
1997 Regular Session
May 5, 1997

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative John Travis, Chairman of the House Commerce Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. in Committee Room 1 of the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative John Travis,
Chairman
Representative Pete Schneider,
Vice Chairman
Representative Robert Barton
Representative Dan Flavin
Representative Mickey Frith
Representative Michael Michot
Representative Arthur Morrell
Representative Edwin Murray
Representative Gil Pinac
Representative Tank Powell
Representative Sharon Weston
Representative Diane Winston

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Herman Hill

III. STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

T. Michael White, Attorney
Cindy Mancuso, Attorney
Sandy Painting, Secretary
Ed Cailleateau and Tauris Ross, Sergeants at Arms

IV. DISCUSSION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5 by Representative Faucheux

Representative Faucheux appeared before the committee to present House Concurrent Resolution No. 5, which urges and requests the Public Service Commission to petition the

Federal Communications Commission with regard to regulating wireless or cellular transmissions.

Representative Travis offered an amendment to House Concurrent Resolution No. 5 which urges and requests the Public Service Commission to petition the Federal Communications Commission for authority to regulate the rates charged by commercial mobile radio service providers and personal communications devices. There was no objection to this amendment and it was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Those members voting yea were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Barton, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, and Weston.

Representative Faucheux stated that a wireless or cellular transmission user should not be charged twice for air time, both on the receiving end and the originating end.

Mr. John Boyce, BellSouth Mobility, 5th Fl., 855 United Plaza, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (504) 231-2086, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 5. He stated that he didn't think this legislation was necessary in an industry that is becoming increasingly competitive.

Mr. Jim Ellis, attorney, Louisiana Cellular Telecommunications Association, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (504) 387-3221, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 5. He stated that the greatest utility in wireless communication is that it is two-way. He stated that rates are going down and will continue to drop.

Representative Travis agreed with Representative Faucheux's concerns regarding the charges on both ends.

Representative Murray made a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 5 with amendments.

Representative Flavin made a substitute motion to defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 5. This motion failed by a vote of 5 yeas and 6 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Schneider, Flavin, Michot, Powell, and Winston. Those voting nay were Representatives Travis, Frith, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, and Weston.

There was no objection to the original motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 5 with amendments and it was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Those members voting yea were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Barton, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, and Winston.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 by Representative Faucheux

Representative Faucheux appeared before the committee to present House Concurrent Resolution No. 6, which memorializes congress to take appropriate action to direct the Federal Communications Commission to regulate the rates charged by mobile service providers.

Representative Travis offered an amendment to House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 which memorializes the United States Congress to regulate the rates charged by commercial mobile radio service, personal communication devices, or private mobile service providers. There was no objection to this amendment and it was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Those members voting yea were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

There was no further discussion on House Concurrent Resolution No. 6.

Representative Murray made a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 with amendments. There was no objection and House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Those members voting yea were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 150 by Representative Travis

Representative Travis appeared before the committee to present House Concurrent Resolution No. 150, which establishes a special committee to study existing federal, state, and local laws, rules, and policies to assess the impact of electric retail competition. He asked that this committee work together with the Public Service Commission.

There was no further discussion on House Concurrent Resolution No. 150.

Representative Pinac made a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 150 favorably. There was no objection and House Concurrent Resolution No. 150 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Those members voting yea were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Bill No. 2061 by Representative Daniel

Representative Daniel appeared before the committee to present House Bill 2061, which provides for the Louisiana Customer Choice in Electricity Act.

Ms. Cindy Mancuso, attorney, House Commerce Committee, explained an amendment to be offered to House Bill No. 2061. She stated that the

amendment added language that stated no electric public utility, or any affiliate thereof, shall sell electricity generated in Louisiana beyond the territorial limits of the state until the Public Service Commission shall have implemented the complete deregulation of the generation and sale of electricity.

Representative Travis offered the above described amendment to House Bill No. 2061. There was no objection to this amendment and it was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Those members voting yea were Representatives Travis, Barton, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

Representative Daniel stated that House Bill No. 2061 sets the date for electric competition which is July 1, 1999, for residential and December 31, 1999 for all others. He stated that this legislation would not take away any responsibility from the Public Service Commission and would not cause prices to increase.

Representative Schneider stated that House Bill No. 2061 would protect the residential consumer. He stated that if we do not put this legislation in place quickly, our retail access will be mandated by the federal government.

Mr. Kent Parsons, ALERT, 8440 Jefferson Hwy., Ste. 301, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809, (504) 929-7033, appeared before the committee in support of House Bill No. 2061 and introduced Dr. Mike Maloney to speak first on behalf of his group.

Dr. Mike Maloney, Citizens For A Sound Economy, 303 Edgenwood Avenue, Clemson, South Carolina 29631, (864) 656-3430, appeared before the committee in support of House Bill No. 2061. He stated that he was a professor at Clemson University, a former Louisiana State University graduate, and has been performing studies on deregulation for 20 years. He stated that he had recently completed a study on retail competition in the electric industry and what it will mean for the economy. He stated that retail competition will happen in the future, that there were no technical problems in retail competition, that delay was wasteful, and that the benefits of deregulation are very large. He urged the committee to favorably consider this legislation.

Mr. Robert Riley, Enron, 1400 Smith Street, Houston, Texas 78731, (713) 853-4734, appeared before the committee in support of House Bill No.

2061. He stated that some of the benefits of electric competition are lower rates, more diverse service, technological innovation, and the ability to use financial products to lock in long-term prices just like any other commodity product in our economy.

Ms. Beverly Smily, Louisiana Citizens For A Sound Economy, P.O. Box 80362, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898, (504) 387-2242, appeared before the committee in support of House Bill No. 2061. She stated that a recent poll reflected that 70% of Louisiana customers favored retail competition and customer choice. She urged the committee to vote favorably on House Bill No. 2061.

Mr. Duane Cowart, Boise Cascade Corporation, 10626 Linkwood Court, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810, (504) 769-5484, appeared before the committee in support of House Bill No. 2061. He stated that if Louisiana customers were given the choice to choose, Louisiana would save \$1 billion a year in electricity costs. He urged the committee to vote favorably on House Bill No. 2061.

Mr. Roger Mayes, Louisiana Retailers Association, 13121 Coursey Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816, (504) 756-0008, appeared before the committee in support of House Bill No. 2061 and reiterated the previous testimony. He asked the committee to clear the way for deregulation.

Mr. Fred Hoyt, Louisiana Retailers Association, 8614 River Road, Abbeville, Louisiana 70510, (318) 893-9531, appeared before the committee in support of House Bill No. 2061. He stated that if utilities were deregulated, his businesses would reflect a 30% savings.

Mr. Nick Perez, president, Louisiana Retailers Association, no address provided, appeared before the committee in support of House Bill No. 2061. He reiterated the previous testimony.

Mr. Dan Borne', Louisiana Chemical Association, Ste. 2040, One American Place, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70825, (504) 344-2609, appeared before the committee in support of House Bill No. 2061. He stated that competitive benefits would be available to Louisiana if it has a deregulated utility industry.

Representative Travis stated that he was asked to advise the committee that the Louisiana Municipal Association had adopted a resolution in opposition to deregulation along with the Police Jury Association and Farm

Bureau. He also advised the committee that there was a newspaper article dated March 30, 1997, which reflected that 20 other states were considering electric utility deregulation and that Louisiana's average cost per kilowatt hour was 7.2 cents, which was lower than all of these other states.

Representative Murray stated that "complete deregulation" needed to be defined.

Mr. Duane Cowart stated that he hoped that Representative Murray could ask for a floor amendment which would define complete deregulation.

Representative Winston asked if deregulation should be implemented "fast" or should we consider if deregulation is "right". She stated that the Public Service Commission should be given the opportunity to handle this issue.

Mr. Cowart stated that the issue of deregulation needs to be handled expeditiously.

Mr. Shelton Cunningham, Entergy, 639 Loyola, New Orleans, Louisiana, (504) 576-5858, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Bill No. 2061. He stated that the amendment discussed earlier would mean immediate higher rates for utilities in Louisiana. He stated that House Bill No. 2061 does not address the city of New Orleans.

Dr. J. A. "Chip" Wright, national consultant, North Carolina, appeared before the committee for informational purposes only. He clarified that 11 states had passed legislation on deregulation but had not instituted competition. He stated that competition may jeopardize low rates. He stated that before we pass this legislation, we should study some other countries that have implemented electric competition.

Ms. Karen Martin, general manager, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO), 428 Travis, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, (318) 673-3227, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Bill No. 2061. She stated that SWEPCO was concerned with reliability and that the Public Service Commission was the proper venue for electric restructuring.

Mr. Randy Pierce, director of regulatory affairs, Louisiana's Electric Cooperatives, 10725 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (504) 293-3450, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Bill No. 2061. He stated Louisiana's Electric Cooperatives was concerned with rural residential customers and fair treatment for all customers served. He stated that House Bill No. 2061 assumes a result not yet reached by the Public Service Commission. He stated that the Louisiana Public Service Commission should be allowed to study this issue and be given the appropriate time within which to do such study. He urged the committee to vote in opposition to House Bill No. 2061.

Mr. Ronnie Judice, Louisiana Energy & Power Authority, 210 Venture Way, Lafayette, Louisiana 70507-5319, (318) 233-7430, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Bill No. 2061. He stated that the

municipalities were opposed to this legislation and reiterated the previous testimony in opposition to House Bill No. 2061.

Mr. Ernest Johnson, president, Louisiana NAACP, 3313 Government St., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (504) 343-1050, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Bill No. 2016. He stated that the Public Service Commission should be allowed to study this issue before any legislation is passed.

Mr. David Eppler, executive vice president, Central Louisiana Electric Company (CLECO), P.O. Box 5000, Pineville, Louisiana 71360, (318) 484-7400, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Bill No. 2016. He stated that CLECO has taken a very proactive position on customer choice and supports fairness, open access, and a choice to all customers of all classes. He stated that House Bill No. 2061 did not address these objectives.

Representative Barton asked if there was an over capacity of electricity nationwide.

Mr. J. A. Wright stated that there was not an over capacity of electricity at the present time.

Mr. Gary Groesch, Alliance for Affordable Energy, 604 Julia St., New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Bill No. 2061. He stated that the stranded costs in Louisiana totaled approximately \$5.5 billion.

Representative Schneider asked Mr. Wright if Entergy was for deregulation or against deregulation.

Mr. Wright stated that Entergy was in favor of electric competition only if it was handled correctly. He stated that Entergy's plan for competition would take approximately seven years. He stated that House Bill No. 2061 would not accomplish what it proposes and that the Public Service Commission should be allowed to study this issue.

Mr. Don Owen, chairman, Louisiana Public Service Commission, Shreveport, Louisiana, appeared before the committee for informational purposes only on House Bill No. 2061. He stated that deregulation of electric utilities needs to be studied at a slow rate.

Ms. Irma Dixon, commissioner, Louisiana Public Service Commission, no address provided, appeared before the committee for informational purposes only. She reiterated the testimony of Mr. Owen.

Representative Weston asked if the Public Service Commission had a time frame within which to complete a study on deregulation.

Ms. Dixon stated that the Public Service Commission was collecting data and just beginning to address the issue of deregulation and could not state an exact completion time.

Representative Weston also expressed her concerns regarding the effects deregulation will have on the poor.

Representative Daniel closed on House Bill No. 2061 and stated that this legislation does not usurp the power of the Louisiana Public Service Commission but does just the opposite. He stated that House Bill No. 2061 sets a date certain, repeals the 300 foot rule, and changes the definition of public utilities.

Representative Schneider stated that it was time for deregulation and time for residential customers to receive some of the profits currently being received by businesses. He urged the committee to vote favorably for House Bill No. 2061.

Representative Flavin made a motion to defer action on House Bill No. 2061.

Representative Schneider made a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 2061 with amendments. This motion failed by a vote of 5 yeas and 7 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Schneider, Barton, Morrell, Murray, and Weston. Those voting nay were Representatives Travis, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Pinac, Powell, and Winston.

There was no objection to Representative Flavin's previous motion to defer action on House Bill No. 2061 and action was deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Barton, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Bill No. 2200 by Representative Durand

Representative Travis appeared before the committee on behalf of Representative Durand and made a motion to defer action on House Bill No. 2200. House Bill No. 2200 would create the Electric Industry Restructuring Act. There was no objection and action was deferred on House Bill No. 2200 by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Barton, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Bill No. 1524 by Representative Schneider

At the request of Representative Schneider, Representative Travis made a motion to defer action on House Bill No. 1524. House Bill No. 1524 would provide for the Louisiana Customer Choice in Electricity Act. There was no objection and action was deferred on House Bill No. 1524 by a

vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Barton, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Bill No. 2428 by Representative Wilkerson

Representative Wilkerson appeared before the committee to present House Bill No. 2428, which prohibits certain types of telephone directory listings.

Ms. Cindy Mancuso, attorney, House Commerce Committee, explained an amendment to be offered to House Bill No. 2428. She stated that the amendment would specify that the proposed law would only apply to cities with a population of 8,000 or less within which a public university is located.

Representative Travis offered the above described amendment to House Bill No. 2428. There was no objection and this amendment was adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

There was no further discussion on House Bill No. 2428.

Representative Pinac made a motion to report House Bill No. 2428 with amendments. There was no objection and House Bill No. 2428 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Bill No. 656 by Representative Murray

Representative Murray appeared before the committee and made a motion to defer action on House Bill No. 656, which would place regulation of cable television under the Public Service Commission. There was no objection and action was deferred on House Bill No. 656 by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Bill No. 482 by Representative Kennard

Representative Kennard appeared before the committee to present House Bill No. 482, which would place regulation of cable television under the Public Service Commission.

Representative Barton asked if the Public Service Commission had been advised of this legislation and if they were in favor of House Bill No. 482.

Ms. Irma Dixon, commissioner, Louisiana Public Service Commission, no address provided, appeared before the committee and stated that cable television rates were

currently regulated by the Federal Communications Commission and that the Public Service Commission had no authority regarding this issue.

At the request of Representative Kennard, Representative Travis made a motion to defer action on House Bill No. 482 and suggested that this issue be further studied. There was no objection and action was deferred on House Bill No. 482 by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Bill No. 2381 by Representative Travis

Representative Travis appeared before the committee to present House Bill No. 2381, which provides relative to inspection, control, supervision, and supplemental fees for utilities.

Representative Barton asked how much money currently is being received by the state in fees.

Mr. Lawrence "Tubby" St. Blanc, Public Service Commission, appeared before the committee for informational purposes only and stated that the state receives approximately \$9 million per year in fees.

Representative Murray made a motion to report House Bill No. 2381 favorably. There was no objection and House Bill No. 2381 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Michot, Murray, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Bill No. 755 by Representative Murray

Representative Murray appeared before the committee to present House Bill No. 755, which would create the office of consumer counsel within the Department of Public Service. He stated that the Department of Public Service had sufficient funds for this program.

Representative Powell stated that he did not see the need for the creation of this office.

Representative Barton made a motion to defer action on House Bill No. 755.

Representative Morrell made a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 755 favorably. This motion failed by a vote of 4 yeas and 5 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives

Frith, Morrell, Murray, and Weston. Those voting nay were Representatives Travis, Barton, Michot, Pinac, and Powell.

There was no objection to the previous motion to defer and action was deferred on House Bill No. 755 by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, and Weston.

House Bill No. 1405 by Representative Daniel

At the request of Representative Daniel, Representative Travis made a motion to defer action on House Bill No. 1405, which would authorize the Public Service Commission to set up a pilot program for electric utility deregulation and would repeal the prohibition on electric utility competition. There was no objection and action was deferred on House Bill No. 1405 by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, and Weston.

House Bill No. 1654 by Representative Daniel

At the request of Representative Daniel, Representative Travis made a motion to defer action on House Bill No. 1654, which would authorize the Public Service Commission to set up a pilot program for electric utility deregulation. There was no objection and action was deferred on House Bill No. 1654 by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Bill No. 1274 by Representative Daniel

At the request of Representative Daniel, Representative Travis made a motion to defer action on House Bill No. 1274, which would provide relative to inspection, control, supervision, and supplemental fees for utilities. There was no objection and action was deferred on House Bill No. 1274 by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Bill No. 2236 by Representative Murray

Representative Murray appeared before the committee to present House

Bill No. 2236, which provides for the Employee Assistance Professional Licensure Act.

Representative Winston explained an amendment to be offered to House Bill No. 2236. She stated that this amendment would clarify that social workers are exempt from this legislation.

Representative Travis offered the above described amendment to House Bill No. 2236 to which there was no objection. This amendment was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

Representative Travis offered a set of technical amendments to House Bill No. 2236 to which there was no objection. These amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

Representative Pinac made a motion to report House Bill No. 2236 with amendments. There was no objection and House Bill No. 2236 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Bill No. 566 by Representative Travis

Representative Travis appeared before the committee to present House Bill No. 566, which re-creates the Department of Public Service.

There was no discussion on House Bill No. 566.

Representative Barton made a motion to report House Bill No. 566 favorably. There was no objection and House Bill No. 566 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Bill No. 183 by Representative DeWitt

Representative DeWitt appeared before the committee to present House Bill No. 183, which increases the salaries of the Public Service Commission members.

Representative DeWitt explained an amendment to be offered to House

Bill No. 183 which would delete from the proposed legislation an additional 2% per annum increase in the salaries of the Public Service Commission members.

Representative Travis offered the above described amendment to House Bill No. 183 to which there was no objection. This amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

Representative Barton made a motion to report House Bill No. 183 with amendments. Objection was raised and a roll call vote was taken. House Bill No. 183 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 1 nay. Those voting yeas were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, and Weston. Representative Winston voted nay.

House Bill No. 1261 by Representative LeBlanc

Representative Travis appeared before the committee on behalf of Representative LeBlanc to present House Bill No. 1261, which provides relative to late fees for utilities.

Representative Travis offered an amendment which states that cable television service providers who provide business or residential cable television services in this state shall not assess a late fee if payment is postmarked by the due date. There was no objection and this amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Travis, Barton, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, and Winston.

Representative Winston stated that she did not see a need for House Bill No. 1261.

Ms. Kay Jackson, executive director, Louisiana Cable Telecommunications Association, One American Place, Ste. 850, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70825, (504) 387-5960, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Bill No. 1261. She stated that this legislation was totally unnecessary. She stated that ultimately the consumer will bear the burden of the costs of implementation of this legislation.

Mr. Steve Creeden, general manager, TCP Cable Television of Lafayette, 714 Eraste Landry, Lafayette, Louisiana 70506, (318) 232-6323, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Bill No. 1261. He stated that this legislation would impose hardships on his customers and would be very difficult to implement.

Representative Winston made a motion to defer action on House Bill No. 1261.

Representative Travis made a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 1261 with amendments. This motion failed by a vote of 3 yeas and 8 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Frith, and Murray. Those voting nay were Representatives Schneider, Barton, Michot, Morrell, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

There was no objection to the original motion to defer action, and action was deferred on House Bill No. 1261 by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Barton, Frith, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Pinac, Powell, Weston, and Winston.

House Bill No. 1981 by Representative Thornhill

Representative Thornhill appeared before the committee to present House Bill No. 1981, which removes intrastate transporters of household goods and furnishings from regulation by the Louisiana Public Service Commission. He stated that he was introducing this legislation to keep Louisiana's rules and regulations consistent with those of federal law.

Mr. Lawrence "Tubby" St. Blanc, Louisiana Public Service Commission, no address provided, appeared before the committee for informational purposes only. He stated that movers who are moving household goods intrastate come under the authority of the Public Service Commission, but if the movers are moving household goods over the state lines, they must obtain a federal single state registration.

Representative Travis asked Representative Thornhill if he would be in agreement to adding an amendment to this legislation that would keep intrastate moving of household goods under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission.

Representative Thornhill stated he had no problem with this amendment.

Mr. Donald Goldwasser, A. Arpin of New Orleans, 4745 River Road, New Orleans, Louisiana 70121, (504) 736-9595, appeared before the committee in support of House Bill No. 1981. He stated that this legislation would allow free competition and would benefit the consumers by providing lower rates for household good moves.

Mr. E. C. Anselmo, Jr., Mayflower and United Airlines agent, H. H. Goods Carriers, 2112 N. Ann, Lafayette, Louisiana 70507, (800) 737-3087, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Bill No. 1981. He left a video for the committee's viewing at a later time. He stated that there should be certain standards to be followed by all movers.

Mr. William Condon, Hug-Condon Moving & Storage Co., 632 Time Saver Avenue, Harahan, Louisiana 70123, (504) 733-1483, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Bill No. 1981. He stated that as long as the Public Service Commission had authority over intrastate moving of household goods, he had no problem with the bill.

Mr. David Flowers, Flowers Transfer, 425 St. DePorres, Broussard, Louisiana, (318) 837-2802, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Bill No. 1981. He reiterated

the above testimony in opposition, but stated that if this legislation was amended as stated above, he would not be in opposition.

Mr. Bill Hathorn, Louisiana HGG Carrier's Association, P.O. Box 792, Alexandria, Louisiana 71309, (318) 445-1411, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Bill No. 1981. He asked if local intrastate movers would be regulated.

Representative Travis stated that with the amendment to be added, the Public Service Commission would regulate the local intrastate movers.

Representative Frith made a motion to report House Bill No. 1981 favorably. There was no objection and House Bill No. 1981 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Murray, Pinac, Powell, and Winston.

House Bill No. 845 by Representative Welch

Representative Travis advised the committee that Representative Welch was not present to present House Bill No. 845, which would provide relative to public utilities.

Representative Flavin made a motion to defer action on House Bill No. 845. There was no objection and action was deferred on House Bill No. 845 by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Murray, Pinac, Powell, and Winston.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business discussed.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Travis, Chairman

Date Approved: _____