

## **House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs**

Minutes of Meeting  
2013 Regular Session  
April 17, 2013

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Timothy G. "Tim" Burns, Chairman of the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. in Room 2, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Taylor F. Barras  
Representative John A. Berthelot  
Representative Jared C. Brossett  
Representative Michael E. Danahay, Vice Chair  
Representative Randal L. Gaines  
Representative Girod Jackson III  
Representative Gregory A. Miller  
Representative Stephen E. Pugh  
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.  
Representative Timothy G. "Tim" Burns, Chairman

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, Legislative Analyst  
Mark Mahaffey, Attorney  
Shawn O'Brien, Secretary

#### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Keith Bayard, Sergeant at Arms  
Andrew Hoz, Clerk

### III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

#### House Bill No. 156 by Representative Schexnayder

Representative Schexnayder presented House Bill No. 156, which provides relative to boards and commissions, eliminating boards that have been shown to be inactive.

Ms. Natalie LaBorde, governor's office (no address provided), submitted a witness card in support of the bill.

Representative Burns offered a set of amendments on behalf of the author to remove a number of boards from the bill thereby retaining their existence, transfer function of the Bio-Fuel Panel to the commissioner of agriculture rather than to the revenue secretary, and remove certain retirement funds' boards from the provisions of proposed law.

Representative Burns offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Mr. Ryan M. Seidemann, Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council, E-313 Howe Russell Geoscience Complex, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-326-6085, provided information on the functions of the council, which would have been eliminated in the original bill.

Representative Burns offered a set of amendments to provide for suspension rather than cessation of entities that fail to comply with deadlines for submitting certain information to the commissioner of administration.

Representative Burns offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Schroder, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, P. O. Box 631, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, informed the committee that the functionality of the many boards under the department which have various police and regulatory powers must continue in the event that any of them would be suspended for compliance reasons. He requested that methods of notification to the agency and continuation of their functions be added to the bill.

Mr. Bryan Landry, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 3113 Valley Creek, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-928-5388, put in a witness card in support of the bill.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 156 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Schroder, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

**House Bill No. 119 by Representative Lorusso**

Representative Lorusso presented House Bill No. 119, which provides relative to the civil service status of employees of the Housing Authority of New Orleans.

Mr. Robert Barbar, Housing Authority of New Orleans, 4100 Touro, New Orleans, LA, 504-670-3388, explained the need for the bill.

Mr. Donald Vallee, 1637 Mareno St., New Orleans, LA 504-491-5255, submitted a witness card inciding support for the bill but did not testify.

Representative Burns offered a set of technical amendments on behalf of the author and made a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Schroder, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Ms. Julie Cherry, Louisiana AFL-CIO, 429 Government St., New Orleans, LA, 225-383-5741, spoke in opposition to the bill relative to the removal of due process rights of the employees of the housing authority.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 119 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Schroder, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

**House Bill No. 131 by Representative James**

Representative James presented House Bill No. 131, a constitutional amendment which requires legislation relative to tax rebates, tax incentives, and tax abatements to be introduced or considered during regular sessions convening in odd-numbered years.

Representative James testified that the bill closes a loophole under which tax rebates have been considered by the legislature in odd-numbered years.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 131 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Schroder, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

**House Bill No. 407 by Representative Robideaux**

Representative Robideaux presented House Bill No. 407, a constitutional amendment which provides relative to prefilng and consideration of certain legislation at regular sessions.

Representative Burns offered a motion to voluntarily defer and reschedule House Bill No. 407. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Schroder, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS****Discussion of rules proposed by State Civil Service in General Circular No. 2013-009**

Ms. Shannon Templet, director, Department of State Civil Service, 1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA, explained that of the 13 rules proposed, some are being deleted because they are no longer applicable and others make changes to terminology that are considered technical. A final change relates to an outdated rule relative to personal services contracts which she said was the subject of a 2003 supreme court case but was not updated. Hearings before the State Civil Service Commission are now only one small, technical step in the approval of such contracts, she explained.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to find acceptable. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Schroder, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Schroder offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Schroder, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Timothy G. "Tim" Burns, Chairman  
House and Governmental Affairs

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*Adopted 5/28/14*