

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2013 Regular Session
April 24, 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 10:07 a.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 Timothy G. "Tim" Burns, Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Mattie Franklin, Sergeant at Arms
Andrew Hoz, Clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 221 by Representative Connick

Representative Connick presented House Bill No. 221, which authorizes certain dual employment and dual officeholding for certain health care providers or researchers.

Mr. Joseph Constans, Department of Veteran Affairs, 1601 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 504-568-8430; Dr. Steve Nelson, MD, Dean, LSU School of Medicine, 2020 Gravier St., #5051, New Orleans, LA, 504-568-4007; and Ms. Cathy J. Lazarus, MD, Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, 1601 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA, 504-566-8401, appeared with the author to provide information.

Representative Burns offered a set of amendments explained by Ms. Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, staff analyst, as removing the requirement that the faculty or staff be a licensed physician providing instead that any member of the faculty or staff of a public higher education facility may be appointed or employed in the U.S. government in a health care facility as a health care provider or researcher.

Dr. Nelson explained that the change in the law would allow the federal Department of Veterans Affairs to contract directly with the provider without running afoul of dual employment provisions.

Mr. Rodney Braxton, City of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-381-0166 submitted a card in favor of the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 221 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 407 by Representative Robideaux

Representative Robideaux presented House Bill No. 407, which is a constitutional amendment providing relative to prefiling and consideration of certain legislation at regular sessions. He explained it would give legislative fiscal office staff more time to work on fiscal notes.

Representative Burns offered a set of amendments to remove the proposed provisions restricting the enactment of legislation relative to tax rebates to a regular session in an-odd-numbered year and add legislation relative to tax incentives and abatements to that legislation that shall be prefiled no later than 45 days prior to the first day of a regular session.

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, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Representative Brossett offered a motion to report House Bill No. 407 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 341 by Representative Burns

Representative Burns presented House Bill No. 341, which makes revisions to the La. Election Code on behalf of the secretary of state's office.

Mr. Kyle Ardoin, First Assistant, Secretary of State's Office, 8585 Archives Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-922-2880, explained that the bill is a culmination of a review process with the input of clerks of court, registrars of voters, candidates, and voters to continue to improve voting procedures and enumerated the proposed amendments to the code.

Ms. Marietta Norton, secretary of state's office, P. O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 225-922-0547 was present to provide information.

Representative Danahay offered a set of amendments changing certain deadlines relative to qualifying for presidential elections from 5:00 p.m. on certain days to 4:30 p.m. on those days and removing from present law the specified number of absentee ballot envelopes that must be mailed to an applicant and a proposed change to that number.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Representative Danahay offered a set of amendments to remove provisions that would have repealed the requirement to publish the inactive list of voters prior to regularly scheduled federal primary elections.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Mr. Ardoin spoke in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Joe Salter, secretary of state's office, P. O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 225-922-0547, suggested that the Press make its case to the Appropriations Committee for maintaining departmental funding for publishing the list of inactive of voters before elections.

Mr. Brandon Abadie, East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court (no address provided), 225-572-5202, submitted a witness card in support of the legislation.

Ms. Pamela Mitchell, Mr. Johnny Koch, and Ms. Cassie Hughes, Louisiana Press Association (LPA), 404 Europe Street, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-344-9309, and Mr. Norris Babin, St. Bernard Voice/The Plaquemines Gazette, P. O. Box 700, Belle Chasse, LA, 504-615-1966, and Ms. Renette D. Hall, LPA/Louisiana Weekly, 2215 Pelopidas St., New Orleans, LA 70122, 504-282-3705, submitted witness cards stating their opposition to the bill based on its original provisions repealing the requirement that the list of inactive voters be printed in newspapers.

Representative Burns offered a motion to report House Bill No. 341 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 458 by Representative Hunter

Representative Hunter authored House Bill No. 458, which provides with respect to voter eligibility.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 458. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 21 by Representative Talbot

Representative Talbot presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 21, which requests the attorney general to review and report to the legislative governmental affairs committees and requests the governmental affairs committees to study and make recommendations all relative to the use of state general funds for lobbying and public relations purposes.

Representative Burns offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 21 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 430 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger authored House Bill No. 430, which increases certain fees chargeable by the secretary of state. The bill was presented by Representative Brossett.

Mr. Kyle Ardoin, First Assistant, Secretary of State's Office, 8585 Archives Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-922-2880, informed the committee that the bill would integrate data collection by the Department of State, Department of Revenue, and Louisiana Workforce Commission to streamline the process of various filing procedures for new businesses.

Mr. Joe Salter, secretary of state's office, P. O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 225-922-0547, submitted a witness card stating this support for the bill.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 430 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 500 by Representative Moreno

Representative Moreno authored House Bill No. 500, which limits election dates for security or neighborhood improvement district elections in certain parishes.

Ms. Suchitra Satpathi, City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 504-658-4905 presented the bill on behalf of the author, saying the change would prevent the timing of certain new fees from coinciding with December tax bills.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 500 favorably. 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.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 by Representative Abramson

Representative Abramson presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 18, which establishes the Title Insurance Committee to study title search periods relative to the required periods of mortgage and conveyance records for the issuance of title insurance property.

Representative Burns offered a set of amendments to provide for appointments to and staffing of the study committee and make various technical changes.

Representative Burns offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the committee.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Miller offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Gaines, Jackson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


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

/so

Adopted 5/28/14