

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2013 Regular Session
April 23, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Joel C. Robideaux, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. in Room 6, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Joel C. Robideaux, Chairman
Representative Taylor F. Barras
Representative Regina Ashford Barrow
Representative Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Christopher Broadwater
Representative Richard T. Burford
Representative Michael E. Danahay
Representative Mickey J. Guillory
Representative Lowell C. Hazel
Representative Frank A. Hoffmann
Representative Robert A. Johnson
Representative Eddie J. Lambert
Representative Harold L. Ritchie
Representative Julie Stokes
Representative Major Thibaut
Representative Jeff R. Thompson
Representative Lenar L. Whitney
Representative Patrick C. Williams, Vice Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Thomas P. Willmott

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Alison Pryor, Attorney
Ms. Elise C. Read, Legislative Analyst
Ms. Kristin Cheng, Secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Ms. Brittany Sylvester, Sergeant at Arms

Ms. Amy Robinson, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 629 by Representative Broadwater**

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 629, which establishes the office of debt recovery at the Dept. of Revenue for the collection of delinquent debts owed to certain governmental entities.

Representative Broadwater offered a set of amendments to give the office authority to suspend drivers licenses. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Whitney, and Patrick Williams voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report House Bill No. 629 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 629 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thompson, Whitney, and Patrick Williams voted yea.

Present to provide information on House Bill No. 629 was Mr. Jarrod J. Coniglio, Louisiana Department of Revenue, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-2707.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 629 was The Honorable John Kennedy, Treasurer, Louisiana Department of the Treasury, 900 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0010.

A copy of the witness cards for individuals (who were present, but did not testify) in support of, in opposition to, and to provide information on House Bill No. 629 is attached. (See Exhibit "A")

House Bill No. 377 by Representative Leger

Representative Robideaux indicated that House Bill No. 377 by Representative Leger, which establishes a registry for tax credits and provides relative to the period of time to report claims or a transfer to the registry, would not be heard at this meeting.

House Bill No. 474 by Representative Stuart Bishop

Representative Robideaux indicated that House Bill No. 474 by Representative Stuart Bishop, which provides relative to the exemption from severance tax for inactive wells, would not be heard at this meeting.

House Bill No. 631 by Representative Wesley Bishop

Representative Wesley Bishop presented House Bill No. 631, which removes the exclusion of the city of New Orleans and the parish of Orleans relative to the offset of individual income tax refunds.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 631 favorably, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 631 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Stokes, Thompson, Whitney, and Patrick Williams voted yea.

Present to provide information on House Bill No. 631 was Ms. Suchitra J. Satpathi, City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 658-4910.

House Bill No. 75 by Representative Wesley Bishop

Representative Wesley Bishop (See Exhibit "B") presented House Bill No. 75, which provides for a state sales and use tax exemption for sales of certain property to "St. Bernard Project, Inc."

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 75 favorably, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 75 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Whitney, and Patrick Williams voted yea.

Present to provide information on House Bill No. 75 was Mr. Arthur "Don" Meazell, St. Bernard Project, 2366 Beck Street, New Orleans, LA 70131, (504) 392-4218.

House Bill No. 483 by Representative Nancy Landry

Representative Robideaux indicated that House Bill No. 483 by Representative Nancy Landry, which extends authority to grant tax credits for certain state-certified musical or theatrical facility infrastructure projects, would not be heard at this meeting.

A copy of the witness cards for individuals (who were present, but did not testify) in support of, in opposition to, and to provide information on House Bill No. 483 is attached. (See Exhibit "C")

House Bill No. 418 by Representative Edwards

Representative Edwards presented House Bill No. 418, which provides with respect to the state and local sales and use tax exemption for sales at certain events sponsored by nonprofit organizations.

Representative Johnson offered a set of amendments to require that only one exemption certificate would be needed per year as opposed to one for each event. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Whitney, and Patrick Williams voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report House Bill No. 418 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 418 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Whitney, and Patrick Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 623 by Representative Katrina Jackson

Representative Katrina Jackson presented House Bill No. 623, which increases the state tax on certain tobacco products.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Robideaux offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 623, to which there was no objection. Action on House Bill No. 623 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Whitney, and Patrick Williams voted yea.

A copy of the witness cards for individuals (who were present, but did not testify) in support of, in opposition to, and to provide information on House Bill No. 623 is attached. (See Exhibit "D")

House Bill No. 537 by Representative Katrina Jackson

Representative Katrina Jackson presented House Bill No. 537, which is a constitutional amendment that levies an additional tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products and authorizes the dedication of such monies.

Representative Broadwater offered a set of amendments to change the rate of the tax to be equal with the Mississippi rate. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, and Patrick Williams voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Patrick Williams offered a motion to report House Bill No. 537 with amendments, to which Representative Hazel objected. House Bill No. 537 failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 11 nays. Representatives Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Hoffmann, Lambert, Ritchie, and Patrick Williams voted yea. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Johnson, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, and Whitney voted nay.

Present to speak in opposition to House Bill No. 537 were Mr. Andrew Muhl (See Exhibit "E"), American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, 4324 David Drive, Metairie, LA 70003, (504)887-3879; Mr. Jack Casanova, Church Point Wholesale, 9684 Church Point Highway, Church Point, LA 70525, (337) 684-5411; Ms. Jodi Buckner, Lyons Specialty, 2800 LA Highway 1 North, Port Allen, LA 70767, (225) 706-7179; Ms. Sarah McCauley, Louisiana Independent Tobacconist Association, 1152 S. Acadian Throughway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 343-3300; and Mr. John Dan Gielen, Shop Rite and Tobacco Plus, P.O. Drawer 1349, Crowley, LA 70526, (337) 783-8696.

A copy of the witness cards for individuals (who were present, but did not testify) in support of, in opposition to, and to provide information on House Bill No. 623 is attached. (See Exhibit "F" and Exhibit "G")

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel C. Robideaux, Chairman

Date