

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2014 Regular Session
May 28, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Tim Burns, chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. in Room 2, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Michael E. Danahay, Vice Chair
Representative Tim Burns, Chairman
Representative Taylor F. Barras
Representative John A. Berthelot
Representative Randal L. Gaines
Representative Gregory A. Miller
Representative Stephen E. Pugh
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, Committee Legislative Analyst
Mark Mahaffey, Committee Attorney
Shawn O'Brien, Committee Secretary
Joyce Trotter, Sergeant at Arms
Andrew Hoz, Committee Clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 166 by Representative St. Germain

Representative Danahay presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 166 on behalf of the author. It creates the Transportation Funding Task Force to study transportation funding mechanisms.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 166 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 166 was reported favorably by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea.

House Bill No. 341 by Representative Harrison

Representative Harrison presented House Bill No. 341, which is a constitutional amendment providing relative to departments of the executive branch of state government.

Mr. Mike Rome, The Madison Council on Aging (address illegible), Tallulah, LA, 318-574-3666; Ms. Tina Wolfe and Mr. Dinah Landry, Cameron Council on Aging, 965 Hwy. 384, Grand Lake, LA 70607, 337-249-1388; Ms. Brenda Gardner, East Feliciana Council on Aging, P. O. Box 986, Clinton, LA 70722, 225-683-9842; Ms. Lisa DeRowen, Evangeline Council on Aging, 1012 N. Reed St., Ville Platte, LA 70586; Ms. Patricia Jones, Allen Council on Aging, P. O. Drawer EL, Oakdale, LA, 318-335-3195; Ms. Helen Langley, Jeff Davis Council on Aging, 210 S. State St, Jennings, LA 337-824-5504; Ms. Becky Bergeron, Pointe Coupee COA, P. O. Box 110, New Roads, LA, 225-638-4402; Ms. Gay Marie O'Neal, Grant Council on Aging, P. O. Box 145, Colfax, LA, 318-627-5757; Ms. Joyce McElroy, Winn Parish Council on Aging, P. O. Box 1, Winnfield, LA, 318-663-4594; and Ms. Sabrina Sonnier, LACOA, 224 South Preston, Marksville, LA, submitted witness cards in favor of the bill but did not testify.

Representative Schroder offered a motion to report House Bill No. 341 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 341 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Miller, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea.

House Bill No. 342 by Representative Harrison

Representative Harrison presented House Bill No. 342, a constitutional amendment which creates and provides for a Department of Elderly Affairs.

Representative Danahay offered a set of amendments to provide that the Department of Elderly Affairs is not to be subject to or considered for purposes of the 20-department limit on the number of executive branch departments.

Mr. Mike Rome, The Madison Council on Aging (address illegible), Tallulah, LA, 318-574-3666; Ms. Tina Wolfe and Mr. Dinah Landry, Cameron Council on Aging, 965 Hwy. 384, Grand Lake, LA 70607, 337-249-1388; Ms. Brenda Gardner, East Feliciana Council on Aging, P. O. Box 986, Clinton, LA 70722, 225-683-9842; Ms. Lisa DeRowen, Evangeline Council on Aging, 1012 N. Reed St., Ville Platte, LA 70586; Ms. Patricia Jones, Allen Council on Aging, P. O. Drawer EL, Oakdale, LA, 318-335-3195; Ms. Helen Langley, Jeff Davis Council on Aging, 210 S. State St, Jennings, LA 337-824-5504; Ms. Becky Bergeron, Pointe Coupee COA, P. O. Box 110, New Roads, LA, 225-638-4402; Ms. Gay Marie O'Neal, Grant Council on Aging, P. O. Box 145, Colfax, LA, 318-627-5757; Ms. Joyce McElroy, Winn Parish Council on Aging, P. O. Box 1, Wnnfield, LA, 318-663-4594; and Ms. Sabrina Sonnier, LACOA, 224 South Preston, Marksville, LA, were present in favor of the bill but did not testify.

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

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 342 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 342 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Miller, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 271 by Senator Murray

Senator Murray presented Senate Bill No. 271, which provides relative to vacancy in the office of a judge.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 271 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 271 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Miller, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 87 by Senator Mills

Senator Mills presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 87, which directs the Department of Health and Hospitals to create a working group to study the future of state healthcare funding.

At the request of the author, Representative Danahay offered a set of amendments to add to the working group a representative of the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance.

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

Ms. Carmen Weisner, National Association of Social Workers, 700 N. 10th St., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-346-1234, submitted a witness card in support of the resolution but did not testify.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 87 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 87 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Miller, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea.

House Resolution No. 113 by Representative Lopinto

Representative Lopinto presented House Resolution No. 113, which authorizes a committee member to abstain from voting under certain circumstances.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on the resolution, with a recommendation to send such proposed House Rule to the Executive Committee of the House for discussion. Without objection, action on House Resolution No. 113 was voluntarily deferred. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted 8 yeas and 0 nays on the motion.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21 by Senator Heitmeier

Representative Berthelot presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21, which creates a joint legislative committee to study obesity.

Mr. Johnny Koch AZI Pharmaceutical (no address provided), and Ms. Carmen Weisner, National Association of Social Workers, 700 North 10th St., Baton Rouge, LA 225-346-1234, submitted witness cards indicating their support of the resolution.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 124 by Senator Thompson

Mr. Hampton Grunewald, LSU Ag Center (no address provided) presented Senator Thompson's Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 124, which establishes and provides for a group to study the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for agricultural purposes.

Representative Schroder offered a set of amendments to add to the study group a representative of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and a representative of the office of state police.

Mr. Rogers Leonard, LSU Ag Center (no address provided) provided additional information.

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

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 124 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 124 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 446 by Senator Buffington

Senator Buffington presented Senate Bill No. 446, which provides relative to an exception to public records law for certain security issues.

Representative Danahay offered a set of amendments to limit the exception to security surveillance video of the capitol area and grounds and to provide definitions for same.

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

Representative Miller offered a set of amendments to clarify that any recorded imagery would not be public record regardless of format.

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

Representative Danahay offered amendments to further define the areas to which the exception would apply and made a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Burns voted yea.

Ms. Pamela Mitchell, Louisiana Press Association, 11420 Browning Rd. Zachary, LA, 225-344-9309, Mr. Fred Kalmbach, *The Advocate* (no address provided) 225-328-0313, and Mr. Johnny Koch, Louisiana Press Association (no address provided), submitted witness cards stating their opposition to the bill.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 446 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 446 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Burns voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Adoption of 2013 Regular Session committee minutes

Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt minutes from the committee's 2013 Regular Session meetings. The meetings were held on April 11, 2013; April 17, 2013; April 24, 2013; April 30, 2013; May 1, 2013; May 8, 2013; May 14, 2013; May 16, 2013; May 21, 2013; and May 29, 2013. Without objection, Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Miller, Pugh, and Schroder adopted the motion by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays.

Report by the Commissioner of Administration

Commissioner of Administration Kristy Nichols, Division of Administration, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, presented the committee with an update regarding the contract with Alvarez and Marsal for governmental efficiencies, management support, deliverables, and staff augmentation services. Ms. Ruth Johnson, Division of Administration, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA; and Mr. William V. Roberti, Alvarez and Marsal, 600 Madison Avenue, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10022, 696-495-4151, assisted in the presentation.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Burns thanked the committee and staff for their work during the 2014 Regular Session.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Burns /s/". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tim Burns, Chairman
House and Governmental Affairs

/so

Date Submitted: : 3-4-15