

**House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs**

Minutes of Meeting  
2014 Regular Session  
March 13, 2014

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Austin J. Badon, Jr., chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m. in Room 6 in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Austin J. Badon, Jr., Chairman  
Representative Robert E. Billiot, Vice Chair  
Representative Regina Ashford Barrow  
Representative John A. Berthelot  
Representative Wesley T. Bishop  
Representative Jared C. Brossett  
Representative Terry R. Brown  
Representative Roy A. Burrell  
Representative Michael E. Danahay  
Representative Kenneth E. Havard  
Representative Dalton W. Honoré  
Representative Barbara M. Norton  
Representative Stephen J. Ortego  
Representative Stephen E. Pugh  
Representative Thomas P. Willmott  
Representative Ebony Woodruff

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Taylor F. Barras

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tina Righteous, Committee Attorney  
Valarie Banks, Committee Secretary  
Tremiah Perry, Committee Clerk

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Vanessa Forrest, Sergeant at Arms

### III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

#### **House Bill No. 289 by Representative Ponti**

Representative Ponti presented House Bill No. 289, which creates the Tara Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Ms. Suzanne Fiske, representing Tara Civic Association, 8860 Trudeau Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 924-3454; and Mr. James R. Ourso, representing Tara Civic Association, 8608 Wartelle Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 926-6383, were present in support of the legislation.

Ms. Sheri Morris, representing Tara Civic Association, 8440 Jefferson Highway, Suite 301, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 292-7033, was present to provide information.

Representative Pugh offered a set of amendments that made changes to the district's name and boundaries; removed provisions that excepted certain property from the imposition of the parcel fee; and made technical changes which clarified voting by the board, the maximum amount of the parcel fee, funds the district may spend, and the maximum fee to be retained by the tax collector. Representative Pugh offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 289 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 289 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 173 by Representative James**

Representative James presented House Bill No. 173, which provides relative to the Sherwood Forest Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District.

Ms. Sheri Morris, representing Sherwood Crime Prevention, 8440 Jefferson Highway, Suite 301, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 929-7033, was present to provide information.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 173 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 173 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**House Bill No. 1010 by Representative Alfred Williams**

Representative Alfred Williams presented House Bill No. 1010, which creates the Villa del Rey Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Ms. Sheri Morris, representing Villa del Rey Civic Association, 8440 Jefferson Highway, Suite 301, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 929-7033, was present to provide information.

Representative Billiot offered a set of technical amendments which clarified voting by the board and the maximum fee to be retained by the tax collector. Representative Billiot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1010 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1010 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**House Bill No. 291 by Representative Jim Morris**

At the request of Representative Jim Morris, Mr. Butch Browning, representing the state fire marshal, (225) 806-0803, presented House Bill No. 291, which authorizes Caddo Fire District No. 1 to levy and collect a sales and use tax, subject to voter approval.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 291 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 291 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**House Bill No. 97 by Representative Shadoin**

Representative Shadoin presented House Bill No. 97, which provides relative to a sales and use tax for the Union Parish School Board.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 97 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 97 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**House Bill No. 132 by Representative Jefferson**

Representative Jefferson presented House Bill No. 132, which authorizes the town of Homer to levy an additional sales and use tax.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 132 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 132 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**House Bill No. 295 by Representative Burrell**

Representative Burrell presented House Bill No. 295, which provides relative to revision of local government laws pursuant to HCR No. 218 of the 2009 Regular Session.

Mr. H. Mark Levy, representing Louisiana State Law Institute, Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Room W127, University Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-1016, (225) 578-0200, was present to provide information.

Representative Burrell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 295 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 295 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**House Bill No. 904 by Representative Johnson**

Representative Johnson presented House Bill No. 904, which provides relative to the civil service status of employees of the Cottonport Housing Authority.

Mr. Keteral Ducote, representing Cottonport Housing Authority, Cottonport, LA, (318) 896-3457, was present to provide information.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 904 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 904 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**House Bill No. 201 by Representative Berthelot**

Representative Berthelot presented House Bill No. 201, which provides relative to the powers granted to the mayor pro tempore in a Lawrason Act municipality.

Mr. John Gallagher, representing Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 N. 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 281-3573; and Mr. Ronnie Harris, representing Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 N. 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 344-5001, were present and spoke in support of the legislation.

Ms. Paulette Bailey Wilson, representing Louisiana Municipal Association, 4919 Jamestown Avenue, Suite 103, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 925-2040, was present in support of House Bill No. 201 but declined to speak.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 201 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 201 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**House Bill No. 255 by Representative Ortego**

Representative Ortego presented House Bill No. 255, which authorizes the governing authority of the city of Carencro to levy a hotel occupancy tax.

Representative Ortego provided a resolution (Exhibit A) in support of House Bill No. 255 from Carencro Mayor Glenn L. Brasseaux and signed by all Carencro City Council members.

Mr. Nick Gautreaux, representing Carencro City Council, P.O. Drawer 10, 210 East St. Peter Street, Carencro, (337) 896-8481, spoke in support of the legislation.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report House Bill No. 255 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 255 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**House Bill No. 577 by Representative Brown**

Representative Brown presented House Bill No. 577, which authorizes Waterworks District No. 3 of Rapides Parish to acquire a privately owned water system located in Grant Parish.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 577 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 577 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**House Bill No. 579 by Representative Danahay**

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 579, which grants the governing authority of the city of Sulphur the power to grant certain powers and duties to the city's zoning commission.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to report House Bill No. 579 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 579 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**House Bill No. 784 by Representative Willmott**

Representative Willmott presented House Bill No. 784, which removes provisions relative to the exhibit of a specific ship by the Kenner Naval Museum.

Representative Willmott provided a letter in support of House Bill No. 784 (Exhibit B) from Kenner Naval Museum Commission Chairman Claude Todaro.

Mr. Cleve Hardman, representing Kenner Naval Museum Commission, P.O. Box 44426, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4426, (225) 342-8188, was present to provide information.

Representative Burrell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 784 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 784 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**House Bill No. 455 by Representative Ivey**

On behalf of Representative Ivey, Representative Barrow presented House Bill No. 455, which provides relative to the Wedgewood Civic Association District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 455 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 455 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

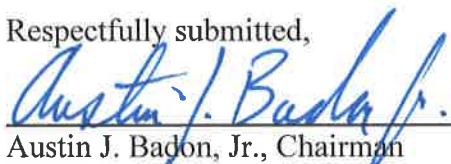
Chairman Badon welcomed Representative Ebony Woodruff to the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs.

Chairman Badon welcomed the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., to the Capitol and thanked them for attending the committee meeting.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Austin J. Badon, Jr., Chairman

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Adopted April 22, 2015