

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2014 Regular Session
March 20, 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 9:44 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 Taylor F. Barras
Representative Regina Ashford Barrow
Representative John A. Berthelot
Representative Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Jared C. Brossett
Representative Terry R. Brown
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 Roy A. Burrell

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, Committee Attorney
Valarie Banks, Committee Secretary
David Gauthier, Legislative Analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Vanessa Forrest, Sergeant at Arms
Joyce Trotter, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 456 by Representative Schroder

Representative Schroder presented House Bill No. 456, which provides that the position of police chief for the city of Covington is in the unclassified service.

Mayor Mike Cooper, representing the city of Covington, 317 North Jefferson Avenue, Covington, LA 70433, (985) 892-1811, spoke in support of the bill.

Mr. Kevin Hayes, Mr. Fabian Blache, and Mr. Johnny Koch, representing the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 North 10th Street, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3261, were present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 456 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 456 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Pugh, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 582 by Representative Jones

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 582, which creates the Morgan City Development District.

Representative Brown offered a set of amendments which clarified that the governing board's powers with respect to acquisition of property are limited to the power to acquire by gift, grant, purchase, or lease. Representative Brown offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Pugh, and Woodruff voted yea.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 582 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 582 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Pugh, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 111 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 111, a constitutional amendment which provides relative to ad valorem taxes for fire and police protection in Orleans Parish.

Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the city of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-0166; Mr. J. C. Mapes, representing the Fraternal Order of Police, 836 North Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 268-8572; and Mr. Nick Felton, representing New Orleans Fire Fighters, 3520 Gen. De Gaulle Drive, New Orleans, LA, (504) 366-8564, were present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 111 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 111 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Pugh, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 253 by Representative Tim Burns

Representative Tim Burns presented House Bill No. 253, which authorizes the governing authority of St. Tammany Parish to create a geographic information system district.

Representative Badon offered a set of amendments that removed provisions that authorized the district's board to levy ad valorem and sales and use taxes. Representative Badon offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Mr. Louis Fitzmorris, assessor, St. Tammany Parish, 701 North Columbia Street, Covington, LA 70433, (985) 809-9150; and Mr. Rick Loggins, representing St. Tammany Parish government, 21490 Koop Drive, Mandeville, LA, (985) 898-2448, spoke in support of the bill.

Mr. Trilby Lenfant, representing St. Tammany Parish, 21490 Koop Drive, Mandeville, LA 70437, (985) 898-2362; and Ms. Sandy Mapes, representing Louisiana Assessors Association, 836 North Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 939-7261, were present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 253 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 253 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 576 by Representative Tim Burns

Representative Tim Burns presented House Bill No. 576, which exempts Mandeville from certain laws regarding wages and hours of police officers.

Mr. Kevin Hayes, representing Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 336-5200; and Mr. Fabian Blache, representing Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 North 10th Street, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3261, were present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 576 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 576 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 238 by Representative St. Germain

Representative St. Germain presented House Bill No. 238, which provides that the position of assistant chief of police in Plaquemine shall be in the unclassified service.

Mr. Orian Gulotta, representing Plaquemine Police Department, 58040 Main Street, Plaquemine, LA, (225) 687-9273, spoke in support of the bill.

Mr. Johnny Koch, representing the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 North 10th Street, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3261; Mr. Kevin Hayes, representing Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 336-5200; and Mr. Fabian Blache, representing Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 North 10th Street, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3261, were present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 238 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 238 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 349 by Representative Barras

Representative Barras presented House Bill No. 349, which provides relative to lease payments for leasing of property by public benefit corporations.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report House Bill No. 349 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 349 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 1012 by Representative Lorusso

Representative Lorusso presented House Bill No. 1012, which provides relative to a special taxing district in Jefferson Parish.

Representative Lorusso presented Resolution No. 120976 from the Jefferson Parish Council (Exhibit A) in favor of the legislation.

Representative Billiot offered a set of amendments that made technical changes and provided for an increase in the membership of the governing board by adding appointments by state legislators. 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, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Ms. Jennifer Ansardi, representing Jefferson Parish, P.O. Box 55815, Metairie, LA 70055, (504) 606-7700, was present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Ms. Rubye Noble, representing Jefferson Parish Legislative Delegation, P.O. Box 44434, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-0357; and Ms. Liz Lambert, representing Jefferson Parish, 1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Jefferson, LA 70123, (504) 736-6300, provided information.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1012 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1012 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 940 by Representative Abramson

At the request of Representative Abramson, Representative Wesley Bishop presented House Bill No. 940, which provides relative to nuisance ordinances in the city of New Orleans.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a set of amendments that added a recitation of local notice. Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Ms. Suchitra Satpathi, representing the city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 658-4928, spoke in support of the bill.

Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the city of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-0166, was present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 940 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 940 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 390 by Representative Mack

On behalf of Representative Mack, Representative Pugh presented House Bill No. 390, which provides for fox pens as part of Louisiana's folklife heritage.

Mr. Jacques Berry, representing the office of the lieutenant governor, 1051 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-7009, provided information.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 390 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 390 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Badon welcomed visiting members of the Orleans Public Education Network and students and staff of St. Paul Lutheran School in New Orleans to the committee meeting.


V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Austin J. Badon, Jr., Chairman
House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs
Adopted April 22, 2015