

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2014 Regular Session
March 27, 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 10:20 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 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:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Vanessa Forrest, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 574 by Representative Brossett

Representative Brossett presented House Bill No. 574, which provides relative to the Seabrook Neighborhood Improvement and Security District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 574 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 574 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Pugh, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 866 by Representative Barrow

Representative Barrow presented House Bill No. 866, which provides relative to annual reports of local housing authorities.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 866. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 866 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 272 by Representative Alfred Williams

Representative Alfred Williams presented House Bill No. 272, which provides relative to firearms buyback programs for parishes and municipalities.

Mr. Mark Dumaine, representing the East Baton Rouge Parish district attorney, 222 St. Louis Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 389-3400, spoke in support of the legislation.

Ms. Sarah Tirrell, representing the East Baton Rouge Parish district attorney's office, 222 St. Louis Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 389-5485, was present in support of the legislation but declined to speak.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report House Bill No. 272 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 272 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.

Vice Chairman Billiot is in the chair.

House Bill No. 371 by Representative Badon

Representative Badon presented House Bill No. 371, which provides relative to the parcel fee levied within the Kingswood Subdivision Improvement District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 371 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 371 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.

Chairman Badon is in the chair.

House Bill No. 918 by Representative Barrow

Representative Barrow presented House Bill No. 918, which authorizes redevelopment authorities to create public benefit corporations.

Mr. Walter Monsour, representing East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority, 801 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 387-5606, spoke in support of the legislation.

Mr. Jody Montelano, representing Entergy, 446 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, provided information as requested.

Mr. James Andermann, representing East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority, 801 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-5606; and Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the city of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166, were present in support of the legislation but declined to speak.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 918 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 918 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 951 by Representative Foil

Representative Foil presented House Bill No. 951, which creates the University Acres Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Mr. William H. Patrick III, representing University Acres Civic Association, 6025 Chandler Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 767-1499; Mr. Cobbett L. Mitchell, Jr., president, University Acres

Civic Association, 5978 Chandler Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 769-2421; and Mr. Wendell Lindsey, representing University Acres Civic Association, 5874 Chandler Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 769-0446, were present in support of the legislation but declined to speak.

Representative Danahay offered a set of amendments that deleted a provision which authorized the sheriff of East Baton Rouge to retain a collection fee not to exceed one percent of the fees collected, and added a provision that authorized the board to enter into an agreement with the sheriff to authorize the sheriff to retain a collection fee. Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Woodruff voted yea.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 951 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 951 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 923 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 923, which requires governing authorities of parishes and municipalities to make meeting agendas, minutes, and votes available on the Internet.

Ms. Lauren Chauvin, representing Louisiana Oil & Gas Association, 1331 Lakeridge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (337) 501-8620, was present in support of the legislation but declined to speak.

Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (225) 806-2522; Mr. Ty Bromwell, representing Police Jury Association, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 343-2835; Mr. John Gallagher, representing Louisiana Municipal Association, 760 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 344-5001; Mr. Johnny Koch, representing Louisiana Press Association (no additional information supplied); Mr. Gary Miller, representing Louisiana Press Association, Baton Rouge, (225) 654-6841; Ms. Pamela Mitchell, representing Louisiana Press Association, 404 Europe Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 344-9309; Ms. Deborah Reynaud, representing Ruhr Valley Publishing, Inc., P.O. Drawer 466, Litcher, LA 76041, (225) 869-5784; and Ms. Sheila Runnels, representing *The Advocate* dba Capital City Press, 7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, La 70810, (225) 388-0254, were present in opposition to the legislation but declined to speak.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 923. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 923 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 339 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 339, which provides relative to the powers granted to the governing authority of the city of New Orleans to remove weeds and other deleterious growths.

Ms. Suchitra Satpathi, representing the city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 688-4921, provided information.

Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (225) 806-2522, was present in support of the legislation but declined to speak.

Representative Brossett offered a motion to report House Bill No. 339 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 339 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 581 by Representative Havard

Representative Havard presented House Bill No. 581, which authorizes the governing authority of the city of Zachary to levy a hotel occupancy tax. Representative Havard submitted Resolution 2014-03 from the Zachary City Council in favor of the implementation of a hotel occupancy tax (Exhibit A).

Mr. Bob Whitaker, representing the city of Zachary, 2717 Dogwood Lane, Zachary, LA 70791, was present in support of the legislation but declined to speak.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report House Bill No. 581 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 581 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. 928 by Representative Hunter

On behalf of Representative Hunter, Representative Norton presented House Bill No. 928, which creates the Monroe-West Monroe Improvement and Security District.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 928. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 928 was voluntarily deferred 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. 98 by Representative Patrick Williams

Representative Patrick Williams presented House Bill No. 98, which provides for the distribution of the monies in the Shreveport Riverfront and Convention Center and Independence Stadium Fund. Representative Williams emailed information regarding the Shreveport-Bossier African-American Chamber of Commerce to committee members prior to the meeting (Exhibit B).

Mr. Darrin Dixon, representing Shreveport-Bossier City African American Chamber of Commerce, 1315 Milam Street, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 220-9098, provided information.

Mr. Paul Pratt, representing Chesapeake Energy, 332 Texas Street, Shreveport, LA, (318) 294-6500, was present in support of the legislation but declined to speak.

Representative Norton offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 98, to which Representative Brown objected. The secretary called the roll and by a vote of 1 yea and 13 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representative Norton voted yea. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted nay.

Representative Havard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 98 favorably, to which Representative Norton objected. The secretary called the roll and House Bill No. 98 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea. Representative Norton voted nay. Chairman Badon abstained.

House Bill No. 1019 by Representative Garofalo

Representative Garofalo presented House Bill No. 1019, which creates the St. Bernard Parish Economic Development Commission.

Mr. Jody Montelano, representing Entergy, 446 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, (504) 458-0734; and Ms. Daryn Bovard, representing Entergy, 446 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 241-6640, were present in support of the legislation but declined to speak.

Mr. Kevin Hayes, representing Louisiana Landowners Association, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 336-5200 spoke in opposition to the legislation.

Mr. Joe Mapes, representing Farm Bureau, 731 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 268-8572, was present in opposition to the legislation but declined to speak.

Representative Berthelot offered a set of amendments that added members to the governing board of the district and authorized the district to promote trade and commerce. Representative Berthelot

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, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Representative Barrow offered a set of amendments that limited the governing board's power with respect to acquisition of property. Representative Barrow offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Berthelot objected. The secretary called the roll and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Barras, Barrow, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea. Representatives Berthelot and Burrell voted nay.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1019 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1019 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Austin J. Badon, Jr., Chairman

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Adopted April 22, 2015