

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2014 Regular Session
April 10, 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 11:52 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
Renita McKnight, Committee Clerk
David Gauthier, Legislative Analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cheryl Forest, Sergeant at Arms
Candace Pointer, Sergeant at Arms
Joyce Trotter, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 584 by Representative Pugh

Representative Pugh presented House Bill No. 584, which provides relative to the naming of the Tangipahoa Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau building. Representative Pugh presented Tangipahoa Parish Resolution No. R14-13 (Exhibit A) in support of House Bill No. 584.

Ms. Carla Tate, representing Tangipahoa Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau, 13143 Ward Line Road, Hammond, LA 70401, (985) 542-7520, was present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Billiot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 584 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 584 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 457 by Representative Pierre

Representative Pierre presented House Bill No. 457, which provides relative to the boundaries and governance of the North Lafayette Redevelopment Authority.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 457 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 457 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 42 by Representative Guinn

Representative Guinn presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 42, which designates the community of Thornwell, Louisiana, as the Yellow Rail Capital of the World.

Mr. Kevin Berken, representing Yellow Rails and Rice Festival, 12527 Highway 14, Lake Arthur, LA 70548, spoke in support of the bill.

Also present in support of the bill but declining to speak were Ms. Shirley Berken, representing Yellow Rails and Rice Festival, 12527 Highway 14, Thornwell, LA 70544; and Mr. Dave Kemmerly, representing Louisiana Rice Growers Association, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 336-5200.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 42 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 42 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Resolution No. 44 by Representative Thierry

Representative Thierry presented House Resolution No. 44, which recognizes the town of Grand Coteau, Louisiana, as the Sweet Dough Pie Capital of the state.

Ms. Janice Fox, representing Grand Coteau Cultural Foundation, P.O. Box 371, Grand Coteau, LA 70541, (337) 662-3058, spoke in support of the bill.

Representative Woodruff offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 44 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 44 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 768 by Representative Price

Representative Price presented House Bill No. 768, which provides relative to incorporation petitions.

Ms. Barbara Sellers, representing Professional Fire Fighters Association, 222 LaFitte Road, Bossier City, LA, (318) 272-9221; Mr. Shane Spillman, representing Professional Fire Fighters Association, 8012 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, (225) 315-9521; and Ms. Dawn Starns, representing the National Federation of Independent Business (no address given), were present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report House Bill No. 768 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 768 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 955 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 955, which provides relative to training requirements for board members of transit authorities.

Mr. Andrew Mull, representing AARP Louisiana (no address given) was present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Barrow offered a set of amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Barrow 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, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report House Bill No. 955 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 955 was reported by substitute by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 568 by Representative St. Germain

Representative St. Germain presented House Bill No. 568, which provides relative to financial security benefits for surviving spouses and children of fire operation personnel.

State Fire Marshal Butch Browning (no address given), (225) 806-0803, provided information and Mr. Shane Spillman, representing Professional Fire Fighters Association, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, (225) 315-9521, was present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 568 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 568 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 1109 by Representative Pope

Representative Pope presented House Bill No. 1109, which provides with respect to meetings of planning commissions located in certain municipalities.

Mr. Fred Raifort, representing the city of Walker (no address given), spoke in support of the bill and Mr. Rick Ramsey, representing the city of Walker, 126891 Pendarun Lane, Walker, LA, (225) 665-7846, was present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1109 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1109 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 503 by Representative Carmody

Representative Carmody presented House Bill No. 503, which provides for the official state book.

Mr. Jacques Berry, representing the office of the lieutenant governor, Capitol Annex Building, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, P.O. Box 44243, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4243, (225) 342-7009, provided information. Ms. Jennifer Beard, representing Louisiana Family Forum, 655 St. Ferdinand Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-8533, was present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Barrow offered a set of amendments that removed provisions that authorize the use of the official state book on official documents of the state. Representative Barrow 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, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report House Bill No. 503 with amendments. Representative Brossett offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 503, to which Representative Barrow objected. A roll call vote was taken and by a vote of 5 yeas, 8 nays, and 1 abstention, the substitute motion to involuntarily defer House Bill No. 503 failed. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Norton, Ortego, and Woodruff voted yea. Representatives Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, and Willmott voted nay. Chairman Badon abstained.

Representative Ortego offered a set of amendments that removed provisions requiring that the official state book be the Holy Bible, published by Johannes Prevel (Prevel, Jean, active 1510-1528, printer, & Petit, Jean, fl. 1492-1530) and instead required that the "Holy Bible" be the official state book. Representative Ortego 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, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Representative Ortego offered a motion to report House Bill No. 503 with amendments, to which Representative Woodruff objected. A roll call vote was taken and by a vote of 8 yeas and 5 nays, the motion to report House Bill No. 503 with amendments passed. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea. Representatives Badon, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Norton, and Woodruff voted nay.

House Bill No. 950 by Representative Alfred Williams

Representative Alfred Williams presented House Bill No. 950, which provides relative to the Goodwood Homesites Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 950 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 950 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 981 by Representative Gaines

Representative Gaines presented House Bill No. 981, which authorizes political subdivisions in St. John the Baptist Parish to establish local sales tax holidays.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 981 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 981 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 1086 by Representative Barras

Representative Barras presented House Bill No. 1086, which authorizes economic development districts or authorities to approve the creation of nonprofit economic development corporations.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1086 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1086 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 787 by Representative Arnold

Representative Arnold presented House Bill No. 787, which provides relative to the qualification of a newspaper to publish official proceedings, legal notices, or advertisements in Orleans or Jefferson Parish.

Representative Badon offered a set of amendments that added an effective date provision. Representative Badon 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, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Representative Barras offered a set of amendments that specified that the proposed law exception to the five-year requirement applies for purposes of qualifications for publishing official proceedings, legal notices, or advertisements in the parishes of Jefferson and Orleans. Representative Barras 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, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Mr. David Franicas, representing NOLA Media Group, 365 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA, (504) 826-3176; Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing NOLA Media Group, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166; and Mr. Kevin Cunningham, representing the *Times-Picayune*, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Mr. Braxton read a statement in opposition to House Bill No. 787 (Exhibit B) from Ms. Renette Dejoie Hall, president and publisher of *The Louisiana Weekly*, 2215 Pelopidas Street, New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 282-3705.

Mr. Dan Shea, representing *The New Orleans Advocate*, 7290 Bluebonnet Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (504) 352-5090, spoke in favor of the bill. Mr. David Tatman, representing Tatman Group, 3043 Old Forge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 767-7640; and Ms. Gina Goings, representing *The New Orleans Advocate*, 1445 Lakeridge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 326-1244, were present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Mr. Clancy DuBos, representing *Gambit Weekly*, 3923 Bienville Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 451-9058, was present to provide information.

Representative Norton offered a set of amendments that would remove *The Advocate* as the sole official state journal. Representative Norton offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Havard objected. A roll call vote was taken and by a vote of 1 yea, 12 nays, and 1 abstention, the motion failed to pass. Representative Norton voted yea. Representatives Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Willmott, and Woodruff voted nay. Chairman Badon abstained.

Representative Havard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 787 with amendments, to which Representative Norton objected. A roll call vote was taken and House Bill No. 787 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea. Representatives Barras and Norton voted nay. Chairman Badon abstained.

House Bill No. 575 by Representative Arnold

Representative Arnold presented House Bill No. 575, which provides with respect to the duration of taxes levied for the Orleans Parish Juvenile Services Financing District.

Mr. Mark Doherty, representing Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, 421 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70124, was present to provide information.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 575 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 575 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, 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.

Representative Badon offered a set of amendments that specified time and content provisions for the subject matter of House Bill No. 923. Representative Badon offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Mr. Roland Dartez, representing Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-2835, provided information.

Mr. Wilbur W. Reynaud, representing *News-Examiner* and the town of Lutchet, P.O. Drawer N, Lutchet, LA 70071, (225) 869-8566; and Mr. Will Chapman, representing *The Daily Iberian*, 926 East Main Street, New Iberia, LA 70566, (337) 321-6727, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Present in opposition to the bill but declining to speak were Ms. Pamela Mitchell, representing Louisiana Press Association, 404 Europe Street, Baton Rouge, LA (225) 924-9309; Mr. Clancy DuBos, representing *Gambit Weekly*, 3923 Bienville Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 451-9058; Mr. Johnny Koch, representing the Louisiana Press Association (no address given); Mr. Dan Shea, representing *The Advocate*, 7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, (504) 352-5090; Mr. Gary Miller, representing Zachary, St. Francisville, Clinton, Amite, Kentwood, and Greensburg newspapers, 12044 Beauverde Court, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 273-6056; Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing NOLA Media Group, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-0166; and Mr. Norris Babin, representing *Plaquemines Gazette* and *St. Bernard Voice*, Belle Chasse, LA and Arabi, LA, (504) 615-1966.

Representative Ivey withdrew his bill from consideration by the committee.

House Bill No. 109 by Representative Connick

Chairman Badon announced that House Bill No. 109 by Representative Connick, which provides relative to hospital service districts in Jefferson Parish, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

House Bill No. 110 by Representative Connick

Chairman Badon announced that House Bill No. 110 by Representative Connick, which requires voter approval of the lease of hospitals in Jefferson Parish hospital service districts unless all are leased to a single lessee, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

House Bill No. 372 by Representative Connick

Chairman Badon announced that House Bill No. 372 by Representative Connick, which provides for a local referendum on the question of selecting a lessee for hospitals in Jefferson Parish, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

House Bill No. 499 by Representative Arnold

Chairman Badon announced that House Bill No. 499 by Representative Arnold, which requires voter approval prior to the imposition of civil fines for traffic violations based on evidence captured by automated traffic enforcement systems, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

Present in opposition to the bill were Mr. C. Kevin Hayes, representing Adams and Reese L.L.P., 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 336-5200; Mr. Dee Stanley, chief accounting officer, representing the city of Lafayette, 309 Alexandria Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 291-8311; and Mr. Fabian Blache, representing Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 North 10th Street, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3261.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Austin J. Badon, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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