

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2014 Regular Session
April 24, 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 11:55 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 John A. Berthelot
Representative Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Jared C. Brossett
Representative Terry R. Brown
Representative Roy A. Burrell
Representative Dalton W. Honoré
Representative Barbara M. Norton
Representative Stephen E. Pugh
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Regina Ashford Barrow
Representative Michael E. Danahay
Representative Kenneth E. Havard
Representative Stephen J. Ortego
Representative Ebony Woodruff

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 425 by Rep. Anders

Chairman Badon announced that House Bill No. 425, which creates the Vidalia Tourism Development District, had been voluntarily deferred by Representative Anders.

House Bill No. 699 by Rep. Cromer

Chairman Badon announced that House Bill No. 699, relative to the qualifications a newspaper must meet in order to be selected to publish the official proceedings, legal notices, and advertisements of a political subdivision, had been voluntarily deferred by Representative Cromer.

House Bill No. 1097 by Rep. Norton

Chairman Badon announced that House Bill No. 1097, which provides relative to the levy of an additional sales and use tax within the city of Shreveport, had been voluntarily deferred by Representative Norton.

House Bill No. 1164 by Rep. Jackson

Chairman Badon announced that House Bill No. 1164, which provides relative to fiscal administrators, including provisions for their powers and duties and prohibition of retroactive application of certain provisions of law relative to fiscal administrators, had been voluntarily deferred by Representative Jackson.

Dr. Maurice Miller, representing Civil Rights Advocacy Association, Jonesboro and Homer, LA, was present in opposition to the bill.

House Bill No. 1210 by Rep. Moreno

Chairman Badon announced that House Bill No. 1210, which authorizes the parish of Orleans to levy a sales tax on tobacco products sold in the parish, had been voluntarily deferred by Representative Moreno.

Present in support of the legislation were Ms. Catherine Kitchen, representing Ochsner Health System (no address given), (504) 842-3228; Mr. Nicholas Felton, president, New Orleans Fire Fighters, 3520 General De Gaulle Drive, New Orleans, LA 70114, (504) 366-8564; Ms. Julie Cherry, representing Louisiana AFL-CIO, 429 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 383-5741; Mr. Louis Reine, representing Louisiana AFL-CIO, 429 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 383-5741; and Ms. Quanda Charles, representing Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living (no address given).

Present in opposition to the bill were Ms. Natalie Babin Isaacks, representing Louisiana Oil Marketers and C-Store Association, 5346 Bankers, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 926-8300; Mr. Fred Burkett, representing Louisiana Retailers Association (no address given), (225) 344-9481; Ms. Jessica Elliott, representing Louisiana Retailers Association, P.O. Box 44034, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 344-9481; Mr. Jim Nickel and Mr. Bud Courson, representing Louisiana Marketers / Conv. Store Association, 453 Lafayette Street, Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 346-6900;

and Mr. John Kay, representing Americans for Prosperity–Louisiana, 7047 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA, (318) 423-3668.

Senate Bill No. 624 by Sen. Kostelka

Chairman Badon announced that Senate Bill No. 624, which authorizes by population certain municipalities to levy a sales tax not to exceed one percent, had been voluntarily deferred by Senator Kostelka.

Mr. Eric Hale, representing the city of West Monroe, 2305 North 7th Street, West Monroe, LA 71291, was present in support of the bill.

House Bill No. 789 by Representative Moreno

Representative Moreno presented House Bill No. 789, which provides relative to penalties imposed for the violation of ordinances in the city of New Orleans.

Representative Berthelot offered a set of amendments that changed the maximum penalty from a fine of \$5,000 to fines of \$500 for a first offense violation and \$1,000 for the second or any subsequent offense. Representative Berthelot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Norton, and Willmott voted yea.

Present in support of the bill but declining to speak were Ms. CoCo Garrett, representing French Quarter Citizens, Inc., 930 Toulouse Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 430-2321; Ms. Erin Holmes, representing Vieux Carre Property Owners and Residents Association, 816 North Rampart Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, (504) 581-7200; Mr. Jimmy Burland, representing French Quarter Residents (no address given), (225) 767-7163; Mr. David D. Collins, representing Community Volunteers Association, 3418 Coliseum, New Orleans, LA 70115; and Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the city of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA.

Mr. Brian Wiggins, representing Vieux Carre Property Owners and Residents Association, 816 North Rampart Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, (504) 202-0157, was present to provide information.

Mr. Chris Young representing French Quarter Business League, 780 North Street, New Orleans, LA, was present in opposition to the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Brossett offered a motion to report House Bill No. 789 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 789 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Norton, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 1212 by Representative James

Representative James presented House Bill No. 1212, which provides relative to the election on a question of municipal incorporation.

Ms. Erin Monroe Wesley, representing Baton Rouge Area Chamber, 564 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 339-1168; and Mr. Shane Spillman, representing Local 557, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, (225) 315-9521, were present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Burrell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1212 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1212 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 59 by Senator John Smith

On behalf of Senator John Smith, Representative Hill presented Senate Bill No. 59, which repeals special provisions relative to the Beauregard Electric Cooperative.

Present in support of the bill but declining to speak were Mr. Kyle Marionneaux, representing Beauregard Electric and Association of La. Elective Cooperatives, 10101 Siegen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 769-7473; Mr. Randy Pierce, representing Beauregard Electric, 10725 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 939-3563; Ms. Kara Kantrow, representing Beauregard Electric Coop, Inc. (no address given), (225) 769-7473; and Ms. Judy McCleary, representing Association of LA Electric Cooperatives, 14978 Centenary, St. Francisville, LA 70775.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 59 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 59 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 1083 by Representative Brossett

Representative Brossett presented House Bill No. 1083, which authorizes the governing authority of the city of New Orleans to levy an additional hotel occupancy tax.

Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the city of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA, was present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Mr. John Kay, representing Americans for Prosperity–Louisiana, 7047 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA, (318) 423-3668, was present in opposition to the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Badon offered a set of amendments that changed the lead author on House Bill No. 1083 from Representative Brossett to Representative Badon. Representative Badon offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Badon offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1083. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 1083 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 1144 by Representative Brossett

Representative Brossett presented House Bill No. 1144, which provides relative to fees charged by the La. Housing Corporation.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a set of amendments that changed the lead author on House Bill No. 1144 from Representative Brossett to Representative Wesley Bishop. Representative Wesley Bishop 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, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Honoré, Norton, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1144. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 1144 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Honoré, Norton, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 992 by Representative Robideaux

Representative Robideaux presented House Bill No. 992, which provides an exemption from the Louisiana Public Lease Law for lease or other alienation of certain property in Lafayette Parish.

Representative Robideaux distributed Resolution No. R-014-2014 (Exhibit A) to members from the Lafayette City-Parish Council in support of House Bill No. 992.

Mr. Ryan Haynie and Mr. Randy Haynie, representing the city of Lafayette, P.O. Box 44032, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 336-4143, were present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Mr. Rickey Brasseaux, 124 Brasseaux Road, Carencro, LA 70520, sent a certified letter (Exhibit B) to committee members in opposition to the bill.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 992 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 992 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 1191 by Representative Burrell

Representative Burrell presented House Bill No. 1191, which authorizes the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau to levy and collect an additional hotel occupancy tax within the jurisdiction of the bureau.

Representative Burrell distributed a package of information entitled, "Duck Commander Independence Bowl" (Exhibit C), to committee members which included resolutions from the City Council of Shreveport, the Caddo Parish Commission, the City Council of Bossier City, and the Bossier Parish Police Jury in support of the bill.

Representative Burrell offered a set of amendments relative to the election on the question of the levy of the tax which added a requirement that the election be held November 4, 2014. Representative Burrell offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 1191 were Ms. Markey W. Pierré, representing the City of Shreveport, the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission, and the Independence Bowl Foundation, 401 Market Street, Suite 550, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 675-0116; Mr. Keith Gamble, representing the Independence Bowl and Sports Airport, 8520 Business Park Drive, Shreveport, LA 71105, (318) 798-2048; Mr. Paul Pratt, representing Duck Commander Independence Bowl, 333 Texas Street, Shreveport, LA, (318) 674-7208; Mr. Tim Wilhite, representing ArkLaTex Regional Air Service Alliance, 4450 Viking Loop, Bossier City, LA 71111, (318) 757-3780; State Representative Jeff R. Thompson, representing District 8, 1527 Doctors Drive, Bossier City, LA 71111, (318) 241-2850; and State Representative Patrick Williams, representing District 4, 1500 North Market Street, Suite A-200, Shreveport, LA 71107, (318) 676-5990.

Mr. Ken Anfee, representing Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission, 9335 Ellerbe Road, Shreveport, LA, (318) 865-9253; Mr. John Escudé, representing Caddo Parish Commission, 144 Norwood, Shreveport, LA, (318) 272-2143; Mr. Randy Lucky, representing Caddo Parish, 505 Taurus, Shreveport, LA, (318) 226-6900; Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the city of Shreveport, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; Mr. Gene Baugh, representing Duck Commander Independence Bowl (no address given), Shreveport-Bossier, LA, (318) 797-7440; Ms. Ginger Adam Corley, representing Bossier City and Bossier Parish, 8250 North Harts Mill Lane,

Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 767-5151; Mr. Roland Dartez, representing Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 343-2835; Mr. Stacy Birdwell, representing Shreveport Fire Fighters, 9021 Aurora Lane, Shreveport, LA 71115; and Ms. Lindy Broderick, representing Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, 400 Edwards, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 877-2500, were present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 1191 were Mr. Wade Duty, representing Louisiana Casino Association, P.O. Box 3801, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-0037; Mr. Richard Klemp, representing Boyd Gaming Corporation, 777 Kansas Star Drive, Mulvane, KS 67110, (316) 719-5052; Mr. Tom Lubbe, representing Shreveport Bossier Hotel Association, 5485 Financial Plaza, Shreveport, LA 71129, (318) 549-2000; and Mr. William Langkopp, representing Louisiana Hotel & Lodging Association, Inc., 201 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 114-103, New Orleans, LA 70170.

Mr. Carl Joseph, representing Hotel Association (no address given), (337) 582-1899; Ms. Gina Goings, representing Sam's Town Shreveport, 1445 Lakeridge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 326-1244; Mr. Arwin P. Bascle, representing Louisiana Hotel and Lodging Association, 1720 Nicholson Drive, Unit 26, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 296-4349; and Mr. Joe Wood Barry, representing Hotel Associations (no address given), (337) 515-3113, were present in opposition to the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Burrell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1191 with amendments, to which Representative Pugh objected. The secretary called the roll and House Bill No. 1191 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, and Willmott voted yea. Representatives Norton and Pugh voted nay. Chairman Badon abstained.

House Bill No. 1093 by Representative Arnold

Representative Arnold presented House Bill No. 1093, which authorizes certain development districts that receive TIF funding from a municipality to provide for an audit of related financial activities of the municipality and other entities that provide such funding.

Representative Billiot offered a set of amendments that added references to present law regarding the authority of the auditor. Representative Billiot 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, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1093 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1093 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 174 by Senator Peterson

At the request of Senator Peterson, Representative Willmott presented Senate Bill No. 174, which provides relative to condemnation procedures for the removal of dangerous structures in parishes and municipalities.

Present in support of the bill but declining to speak were Mr. Roland Dartez, representing Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-2835; Ms. Reneé Roberts, representing St. Tammany Parish Government, P.O. Box 628, Covington, LA 70434, (985) 898-2700; Ms. Jennifer Ansardi, representing Jefferson Parish, P.O. Box 55815, Metairie, LA 70055, (504) 606-7700; Mr. Ty Bromell, representing Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-2835; and Mr. George Marretta, representing Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-5001.

Present to provide information were 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.

Representative Billiot offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 174 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 174 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Badon announced that the next meeting of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs had been changed by the Speaker from May 1, 2014, to April 30, 2014.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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