

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2015 Regular Session
April 22, 2015

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 1:20 p.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 Joseph Bouie Jr.
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 Regina Ashford Barrow
Representative Wesley T. Bishop

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, Attorney
Valarie Banks, Secretary
Theron Levi, Clerk
David Gauthier, Analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Danny Leming, Sergeant at Arms
Faye Talbot, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 95 by Representative Richard

Representative Richard presented House Bill No. 95, which creates the Lafourche Arc Taxing District.

Mr. Richard Bouterie, Jr., representing Lafourche Arc, 408 W. Third Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301, (985) 447-6767, spoke in support of House Bill No. 95 and presented informational material contained in Exhibit A.

Mr. Lester Adams, representing Lafourche Arc, 100 West Main Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301, (985) 447-6214, spoke in support of House Bill No. 95.

Senator Troy Brown, representing Senate District No. 2, P.O. Box 974, Napoleonville, LA 70390, (985) 369-3333, spoke in support of House Bill No. 95.

Mr. Kevin Hayes, representing Louisiana Landowners Association and Adams and Reese LLP, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 336-5200, provided information.

Representative Joe Harrison, representing House District No. 51, P.O. Drawer 1809, Gray, LA 70359, (800) 935-2081, provided information.

Ms. Patricia Whitney, representing herself and her son, a client of Lafourche Arc, 1206 Cardinal Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301, (985) 859-3214, spoke in support of House Bill No. 95.

Mr. Todd Pitre, representing Lafourche Arc, 103, Elsie Court Apartment 3, Lockport, LA 70374, (985) 532-7133, spoke in support of House Bill No. 95.

Mr. Kyle Soignet, representing Lafourche Arc, 627 North 6th Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301, (985) 688-7225, spoke in support of House Bill No. 95.

Twelve persons completed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 95 but declined to speak.

Representative Berthelot offered amendments to remove authority for the district to receive money or property by means other than purchase, gift, grant, and donation. Representative Berthelot 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, Bouie, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 95 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 95 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 216 by Representative Seabaugh

Representative Seabaugh presented House Bill No. 216, which provides relative to the hotel occupancy tax that the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau is authorized to levy.

Mr. Jeff Everson, representing the city of Shreveport, 505 Travis, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 347-2554, spoke in support of House Bill No. 216.

Mr. Tim Wilhite, representing Ark-La-Tex Regional Air Service Alliance, 4450 Viking Loop, Bossier City, LA 71111, (318) 747-3780, spoke in support of House Bill No. 216.

Mr. Steven Jackson, representing the city of Shreveport, 505 Travis, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 625-6765, presented an informational document labeled Exhibit B.

Seventeen persons completed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 216 but declined to speak.

Mr. Tom McPherson, representing Boyd Gaming/Sam's Town Casino-Shreveport, 12550 Brookshire Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 272-1669, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 216.

Representative Burrell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 216 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 216 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 144 by Representative Arnold

Representative Arnold presented House Bill No. 144, which provides relative to the powers and duties of the Algiers Development District.

One person completed a witness card in support of House Bill No. 144 but declined to speak.

Representative Ortego offered a motion to report House Bill No. 144 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 144 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 121 by Representative Pope

Representative Pope presented House Bill No. 121, which provides relative to the civil service status of employees of the housing authority of Denham Springs.

One person completed a witness card in support of House Bill No. 121 but declined to speak.

Representative Havard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 121 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 121 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 256 by Representative Pope

Representative Pope presented House Bill No. 256, which provides relative to certain interlocal risk management agencies.

Mr. Dannie Garrett, representing Louisiana Small Business Association, 263 Third Street, Suite 707, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 283-0333, spoke in support of House Bill No. 256.

One person completed a witness card in support of House Bill No. 256 but declined to speak.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 256 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 256 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 145 by Representative Burford

Representative Burford presented House Bill No. 145, which authorizes DeSoto Parish Fire District No. 3 to collect a service charge on structures.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 145 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 145 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 23 by Representative Hensgens

Representative Hensgens presented House Bill No. 23, which provides with respect to the Vermilion Parish Economic Development District.

Representative Badon offered amendments to add a provision that members of the board in office on the effective date of proposed law shall serve until the expiration of their terms. 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, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Mr. Richard Guilbeau, representing Vermilion Parish Economic Development District, 407 Charity Suite 102, Abbeville, LA 70516, (337) 898-1878, spoke in support of House Bill No. 23.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 23 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 23 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 200 by Representative Harrison

Representative Harrison presented House Bill No. 200, which provides relative to the Terrebonne Economic Development Authority. Representative Harrison presented letters of support for House Bill No. 200 from Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce (Exhibit C) and South Central Industrial Association (Exhibit D).

Representative Badon offered amendments to:

1. Change the qualifications for the two members appointed by the governing authority of Terrebonne Parish and the member appointed by the president of Terrebonne Parish.
2. Remove provisions that grant to the authority the power to use other means to acquire property other than by purchase, donation, grant, exchange, or lease. Additionally remove provisions that grant to the authority the power to use other means to receive money, property, or other assistance other than by grant or donation.

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, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Mr. Patrick Gordon, representing Terrebonne Parish Government, P.O. Box 2768, Houma, LA, (985) 873-6569, spoke in support of House Bill No. 200.

Mr. Kevin Hayes, representing Louisiana Landowners Association and Adams and Reese, LLP, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 336-5200, provided information.

Representative Havard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 200 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 200 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 8 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 8, which provides relative to the powers granted to the chief of police for the city of Crowley.

Mr. Fabian Blache, representing Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 North 10th Street, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3261, spoke in support of House Bill No. 8.

One person completed a witness card in support of House Bill No. 8 but declined to speak.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 8 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 8 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 147 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 147, which authorizes the town of Duson to levy a hotel occupancy tax.

An unnamed representative of three entities completed three witness cards in support of House Bill No. 147 but declined to speak.

Representative Ortego offered a motion to report House Bill No. 147 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 147 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 201 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 201, which provides relative to the board of directors of the Acadia Parish Convention and Visitors Commission.

Representative Ortego offered a motion to report House Bill No. 201 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 201 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 124 by Representative Burrell

Representative Burrell presented House Bill No. 124, which provides relative to the boundaries of the Shreveport Downtown Development District.

Representative Ortego offered amendments relative to the expansion of district boundaries that add a requirement that the city council submit any existing ad valorem tax or bonds to the qualified electors of the expanded territory. Representative Ortego 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, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Mr. Jeff Everson, representing the city of Shreveport, 505 Travis, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 347-2554, spoke in support of House Bill No. 124.

Representative Ortego offered a motion to report House Bill No. 124 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 124 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 769 by Representative Burrell

Representative Burrell presented House Bill No. 769, which creates the Shreveport Implementation and Redevelopment Authority. Representative Burrell presented Resolution No. 62 of 2015 from the city of Shreveport in support of House Bill No. 769 (Exhibit E).

Representative Norton offered amendments to remove authority for the authority to acquire property by expropriation or any means other than gift, grant, purchase, or lease. Representative Norton 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, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Mr. Jeff Everson, representing the city of Shreveport, 505 Travis, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 347-2554, spoke in support of House Bill No. 769.

Six persons completed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 769 but declined to speak.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 769 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 769 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 463 by Representative Berthelot

Representative Berthelot presented House Bill No. 463, which provides relative to the appointment and term of municipal officials in a Lawrason Act municipality.

Mr. John Gallagher, representing Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-5001, spoke in support of House Bill No. 463.

One person completed a witness card in support of House Bill No. 463 but declined to speak.

Representative Ortego offered a motion to report House Bill No. 463 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 463 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 26 by Representative Miller

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 26, which provides with respect to powers of the governing authority of St. Charles Parish relative to grass cutting.

Mr. Chris Guidry, representing St. Charles Parish (no address given), (504) 415-2137, spoke in support of House Bill No. 26.

Mr. Buddy Boe, representing St. Charles Parish, P.O. Box 302, Hahnville, LA 70057, spoke in support of House Bill No. 26.

Representative Willmott offered a motion to report House Bill No. 26 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 26 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 50 by Representative Danahay

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 50, which provides a technical correction relative to additional compensation authorized to be paid to certain firefighters.

Representative Ortego offered a motion to report House Bill No. 50 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 50 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

House Bill No. 267 by Representative Danahay

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 267, which provides relative to the work schedule of certain employees of the Sulphur Police Department.

Two persons completed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 267 but declined to speak.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 267 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 267 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Representative Badon offered a motion to adopt the 2014 Regular Session minutes of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs for the following meetings: March 13, March 20, March 27, April 10, April 24, April 30, May 7, May 15, May 21, and May 29. Without objection, the minutes were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

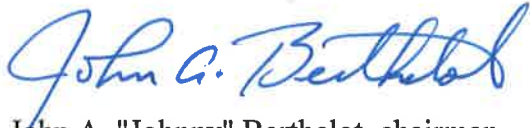
There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Bouie offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John A. "Johnny" Berthelot, chairman
House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Date adopted: March 2, 2016

The committee has acknowledged on March 2, 2016, that these minutes were prepared in accordance with the rules of the House of Representatives.