

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2015 Regular Session
April 30, 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 10:37 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 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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Ebony Woodruff

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Barbara Pate, Sergeant at Arms
Faye Talbot, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 110 by Representative Whitney

Representative Whitney presented House Bill No. 110, which repeals provisions for the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center Commission.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 110 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 110 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 126 by Representative Hensgens

Representative Hensgens presented House Bill No. 126, which provides relative to Cameron Parish Waterworks District No. 10.

Representative Hensgens presented a resolution from the Cameron Parish Waterworks District No. 10 governing board, the Cameron Parish Police Jury (Exhibit A), in support of House Bill No. 126

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 126 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 126 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 92 by Representative Tim Burns

Representative Tim Burns presented House Bill No. 92, which provides relative to the position of chief of training and safety for St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 4.

Representative Badon offered amendments to allow a chief of training and safety who is a current employee of the fire protection district to take a promotional exam; to eliminate certain job qualifications for the chief of training and safety; and to eliminate certain provisions relative to seniority and disciplinary action. 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, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Chief Merrick Tassin, St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 4, 709 Girod Street, Mandeville, LA, (985) 626-8611, spoke in support of House Bill No. 92.

Mr. Kenneth Moore, St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 4, 709 Girod Street, Mandeville, LA, (985) 789-9687, spoke in support of House Bill No. 92.

One person completed a witness card in support of House Bill No. 92 but declined to speak.

Mr. Robert S. Lawrence, state examiner, Municipal Fire & Police Civil Service, 8550 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 901, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4400, provided information.

Fifty-five persons completed witness cards in opposition to House Bill No. 92 but declined to speak.

Representative Badon offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 92. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 92 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 108 by Representative Tim Burns

Representative Tim Burns presented House Bill No. 108, which provides relative to personnel of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 4.

Representative Tim Burns presented materials from St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 4 (Exhibit B) in support of House Bill No. 108.

Representative Badon offered amendments to allow St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 4 to include up to six fire stations in service in each fire district rather than exempting the district from present law. 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, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Chief Merrick Tassin, St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 4, 709 Girod Street, Mandeville, LA, (985) 966-6089, spoke in support of House Bill No. 108.

Mr. Kenneth Moore, St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 4, 709 Girod Street, Mandeville, LA, (985) 789-9687, spoke in support of House Bill No. 108.

One person submitted a witness card in support of House Bill No. 108 but declined to speak. Mr. Chad Major, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 572-8483, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 108.

Mr. Keith Murray, Mandeville Firefighters Association, 84195 Press Sharp Road, Bush, LA 70431, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 108.

Mr. Nick Felton, president, New Orleans Fire Fighters, 3520 General De Gaulle Drive, New Orleans, LA, (504) 366-8564, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 108.

Forty-two persons completed witness cards in opposition to House Bill No. 108 but declined to speak.

Representative Norton offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 108. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 108 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 691 by Representative Smith

Representative Smith presented House Bill No. 691, which creates the Riverbend Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Mr. Malcolm G. Myer, Riverbend Subdivision Homeowners Association, 5217 Riverbend Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 324-7427, spoke in support of House Bill No. 691.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 691 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 691 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 63 by Representative Anders

Representative Anders presented House Bill No. 63, which provides that the positions of fire chief and assistant fire chief for Parishwide Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of Tensas are in the unclassified service.

Mr. Ricky Jones, Tensas Parish Fire District No. 1, 212 Hancock Street, Suite C, St. Joseph, LA, 71366, (318) 766-3004, spoke in support of House Bill No. 63.

Mr. Dan Garrett, Tensas Parish Fire District No. 1, 263 Third Street, Suite 707, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, spoke in support of House Bill No. 63.

One person was present to provide information on House Bill No. 63 if requested, but declined to speak.

Mr. Chad Major, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 572-8483, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 63.

Sixteen persons completed witness cards in opposition to House Bill No. 63 but declined to speak.

Representative Honoré offered a motion to report House Bill No. 63 favorably, to which Representative Norton objected. A roll call vote was taken and House Bill No. 63 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Honoré, and Pugh voted yea. Representatives Billiot, Barrow, Danahay, Norton, and Ortego voted nay. Representative Badon abstained.

House Bill No. 109 by Representative Richard

Representative Richard presented House Bill No. 109, which provides relative to parcel fees levied by Fire Protection District 8-C in Lafourche Parish.

Representative Barrow offered amendments to add requirements for voter approval of the levy of a parcel fee on any parcel as defined in proposed law, and that any parcel fee be imposed by resolution or ordinance of the governing authority of the district. 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, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, and Pugh voted yea.

Mr. Bruce L. McManis, Fire District 8-C, 984 Highway 204, Thibodaux, LA, (985) 209-6490, offered information on House Bill No. 109.

One person completed a witness card to offer information on House Bill No. 109, if requested.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 109 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 109 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 414 by Representative Reynolds

Representative Reynolds presented House Bill No. 414, which provides relative to the Downtown Development District of the city of Minden.

Mayor Tommy Davis, city of Minden, 520 Broadway, Minden, LA 71055, (318) 377-2144, spoke in support of House Bill No. 414.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 414 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 414 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 526 by Representative Ourso

Representative Ourso presented House Bill No. 526, which creates the Woodlawn Estates Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Badon offered amendments to:

1. Change the boundaries of the district;
2. Increase the maximum amount of the parcel fee from \$200 to \$300;
3. Increase the maximum amount of the initial parcel fee for the first calendar year from \$100 to \$150; and
4. Add provision that if the district ceases to exist, property of the district shall be transmitted to the governing authority of the municipality in which district is located if the district was in an incorporated area.

Representative Badon 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, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Ms. Sheri Morris, Woodlawn Estates Homeowners Association, 8440 Jefferson Highway, Suite 301, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 929-7033, provided information on House Bill No. 526.

Two persons completed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 526 but declined to speak.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 526 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 526 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 527 by Representative Barrow

Representative Barrow presented House Bill No. 527, which creates the Forest Heights Park Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Mr. Charles R. Thomas, Forest Heights Park Subdivision Homeowners Association, 7081 Modesto Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, (225) 355-8856, spoke in support of House Bill No. 527.

Mr. Larry D. Stone, 7038 Chisholm Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 356-1896, spoke in support of House Bill No. 527.

Two persons completed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 527 but declined to speak.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 527 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 527 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 146 by Representative Honoré

Representative Honoré presented House Bill No. 146, which authorizes the city of Baker to levy a hotel occupancy tax.

Mr. Danny Edwards, city of Baker, 3701 Groom Road, Baker, LA 70714, (225) 775-3712, spoke in support of House Bill No. 146.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 146 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 146 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 325 by Representative Wesley Bishop

Representative Wesley Bishop presented House Bill No. 325, which creates the Faubourg Marigny Security and Improvement District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 325 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 325 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 324 by Representative Badon

Representative Badon presented House Bill No. 324, which creates the Fairway Estates Subdivision Improvement District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 324 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 324 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 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.