

## **House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs**

Minutes of Meeting  
2015 Regular Session  
May 28, 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 2:18 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 Regina Ashford Barrow  
Representative John A. Berthelot  
Representative Wesley T. Bishop  
Representative Joseph Bouie Jr.  
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, Attorney  
David Gauthier, Legislative Analyst  
Valarie Banks, Secretary  
Theron Levi, Clerk

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Janet Anthony, Sergeant at Arms

Faye Talbot, Sergeant at Arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**House Bill No. 415 by Representative Barrow**

Chairman Badon announced that House Bill No. 415, which requires certain large municipalities to adopt ordinances regarding maintenance of the appearance and character of private property, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

One person submitted a witness card in opposition to House Bill No. 415 but declined to speak.

**House Bill No. 810 by Representative Billiot**

Chairman Badon announced that House Bill No. 810, which authorizes tourism organizations in Jefferson Parish to levy hotel assessments upon its hotel members and provides for treating such assessments as a surcharge to hotel guests, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

Three persons submitted witness cards in support of House Bill No. 810 but declined to speak.

**Senate Bill No. 49 by Senator Murray**

Senator Murray presented Senate Bill No. 49, which provides relative to credits and deposits into the "Water Help Program Fund" of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

Three persons submitted witness cards in favor of Senate Bill No. 49 but declined to speak.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 49 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 49 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 50 by Senator Murray**

Senator Murray presented Senate Bill No. 50, which provides relative to release of obligations of indebtedness by the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

Three persons submitted witness cards in favor of Senate Bill No. 50 but declined to speak.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 50 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 50 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 153 by Senator Martiny**

Senator Martiny presented Senate Bill No. 153, which provides relative to the Louisiana State Museum.

Ms. Deborah D. Harkins, representing Friends of Cabildo, 828 St. Charles #6, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 153.

Four persons submitted witness cards in support of Senate Bill No. 153 but declined to speak.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 153 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 153 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 169 by Senator Martiny**

Senator Martiny presented Senate Bill No. 169, which authorizes a levy of an optional hotel assessment by a tourism organization upon its hotel members and provides for treating such assessment as a surcharge to hotel guests.

Representative Woodruff offered amendments that add a provision that limits the assessment that a tourism organization may levy to 1.75% of the daily room charge. Representative Woodruff 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, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Five persons submitted witness cards in support of Senate Bill No. 169 but declined to speak.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 169 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 169 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 53 by Senator Morrell**

Senator Morrell presented Senate Bill No. 53, which provides relative to the Oak Island Neighborhood Improvement District within the parish of Orleans to levy and collect a parcel fee.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 53 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 53 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 149 by Senator Morrell**

Senator Morrell presented Senate Bill No. 149, which creates and provides relative to the Law Enforcement Management District of Orleans Parish.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 149 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 149 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 29 by Senator Cortez**

Senator Cortez presented Senate Bill No. 29, which provides relative to the city of Lafayette municipal fire and police civil service system. A resolution in support of the bill from the Lafayette City-Parish Council, labeled Exhibit A, was presented to the members.

Representative Badon offered amendments that, relative to demotions and promotions, provide that preference must be given to persons with the greatest "departmental seniority" if two or more persons share identical "promotional seniority". Representative Badon offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Mr. Guy LeBreton, representing Lafayette Police Department, 900 East University Avenue, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 291-7256, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 29.

Four persons submitted witness cards in support of Senate Bill No. 29 but declined to speak.

Lieutenant Steve Bergeron, 900 East University Avenue, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 291-7255, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 29.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 29 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 29 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 38 by Senator Johns**

Senator Johns presented Senate Bill No. 38, which provides relative to the city of Lake Charles municipal fire and police civil service system.

Representative Badon offered amendments that, relative to demotions and promotions, provide that preference must be given to persons with the greatest "departmental seniority" if two or more persons share identical "promotional seniority". Representative Badon offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Two persons were present in support of Senate Bill No. 38 but declined to speak.

Representative Havard offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 38 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 38 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 192 by Senator Johns**

Senator Johns presented Senate Bill No. 192, which provides for the special taxing district within the city of Lake Charles.

Representative Badon offered amendments that add a requirement that any ordinance or resolution adopted by the district authorizing the pledge of tax increments to secure debt be published in the official journal of the city of Lake Charles and provide a procedure for and limitation on contesting the legality of any such ordinance or resolution. Representative Badon 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, Billiot, Barras, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, and Norton voted yea.

One person submitted a witness card in support of Senate Bill No. 192 but declined to speak.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 192 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 192 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 211 by Senator Johns**

Senator Johns presented Senate Bill No. 211, which provides relative to lease or sale of certain lakefront property in the city of Lake Charles.

One person submitted a witness card in support of Senate Bill No. 211 but declined to speak.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 211 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 211 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, and Pugh voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 25 by Senator Peterson**

On behalf of Senator Peterson, Chairman Badon presented Senate Bill No. 25, which provides relative to the Broadmoor Neighborhood Improvement District within the parish of Orleans.

One person submitted a witness card in support of Senate Bill No. 25 but declined to speak.

Representative Badon offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 25 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 25 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, and Pugh voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 193 by Senator Thompson**

On behalf of Senator Thompson, Representative Brown presented Senate Bill No. 193, which authorizes the Walnut Street Special District as a tax increment finance district in the city of Monroe.

Representative Brown offered amendments that, relative to the agreement entered into by the district and any affected tax recipient entity authorizing the use and dedication of tax increments, grants the district the authority to include additional entities as parties to such agreement and provides relative its terms and conditions; and remove provisions that specify certain financing tools that may be used by the district. Representative Brown offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, and Pugh voted yea.

Two persons submitted a witness card in support of Senate Bill No. 193 but declined to speak.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 193 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 193 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, and Pugh voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 11 by Senator Long**

On behalf of Senator Long, Representative Brown presented Senate Bill No. 11, which authorizes the Sabine Parish Tourist and Recreation Commission to levy additional occupancy taxes on hotel rooms, motel rooms, and camping facilities if approved by parish voters.

Three persons submitted witness cards in support of Senate Bill No. 11 but declined to speak.

One person submitted a witness card to provide information if requested but declined to speak.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 11 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 11 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, and Pugh voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 22 by Senator LaFleur**

Senator LaFleur presented Senate Bill No. 22, which authorizes coverage risk which may be pooled by local housing authority members of the interlocal risk management agency.

Mr. David Ziober, representing Louisiana Housing Council, 320 Somerulos Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 382-3263, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 22.

One person submitted a witness card in support of Senate Bill No. 22 but declined to speak.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 22 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 22 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

**House Bill No. 503 by Representative Pylant**

Representative Pylant presented House Bill No. 503, which authorizes the town of Jonesville to levy a sales and use tax.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 503 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 503 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon,

Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

### **Senate Bill No. 278 by Senator Brown**

Senator Brown presented Senate Bill No. 278, which creates and provides for the North Lafourche Recreation Enhancement District. Documents relative to the bill, labeled Exhibit B, were presented to the members.

Representative Badon offered amendments that delete authorization for the district to levy taxes or incur debts, subject to voter approval, and add a provision that the district has no authority to levy taxes or incur debt; add a provision that requires board vacancies to be filled within 60 days and provision for appointment if an appointing authority fails to meet this deadline; and add provisions relative to the first meeting of the board. 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, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Councilwoman Constance Johnson, representing the city of Thibodaux D-C (no address given), Thibodaux, LA, (985) 446-1525, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 278.

Councilman Jerry Jones, representing Lafourche Parish Council (no address given), Thibodaux, LA, (985) 387-2312, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 278.

Representative Jerome "Dee" Richard, representing Louisiana House District No. 55, 907 Jackson Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301, (983) 447-0999, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 278.

Mayor Tommy Eschete, representing the city of Thibodaux, P.O. Box 5418, Thibodaux, LA, (985) 446-7218, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 278.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 278 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 278 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 733 by Representative Hensgens**

Representative Hensgens presented House Bill No. 733, which provides relative to annexation procedures in the city of Abbeville. A map, labeled Exhibit C, was presented to the members.

Representative Berthelot offered amendments to add a provision to repeal the proposed law on Dec. 31, 2017. 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, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

Two persons submitted witness cards in support of House Bill No. 733 but declined to speak.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 733 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 733 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 273 by Senator Perry**

Senator Perry presented Senate Bill No. 273, which repeals requirement that the one additional Vermilion Parish Library Board of Control member be subject to Senate confirmation.

Representative Ortego offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 273 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 273 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 274 by Senator Morrish**

Senator Morrish presented Senate Bill No. 274, which provides relative to compensation for the board of commissioners of ambulance service districts in Cameron Parish.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 274 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 274 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

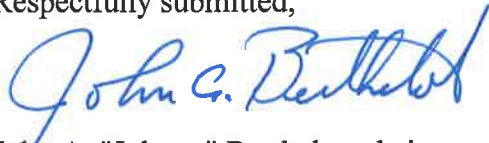
There were no other announcements.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Honoré offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn was adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Billiot, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Wesley Bishop, Bouie, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott, and Woodruff voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 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.