

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
March 17, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative John A. Berthelot, chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. in Room 6, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative John A. Berthelot, chairman
Representative Robert E. Billiot
Representative Joseph Bouie Jr.
Representative Paula P. Davis
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Cedric B. Glover
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Mike Huval, vice chairman
Representative Sam L. Jenkins Jr.
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Barbara M. Norton
Representative Stephen E. Pugh
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Stephen F. Carter

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Valarie Banks, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

William Belleu, clerk
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler**

Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler said he felt obligated to address the committee regarding comments on the topic of museums made by Lieutenant Governor Nungesser at a meeting of the committee on March 2, 2016. He stated that museums under his control have never been closed. He referred to impact studies predicting that museums would have to be closed in a budget crunch. He noted that moving or transferring museums was not the way to create savings in the state's current budget crisis. Secretary Schedler said museum experts were consulted for ideas on whether the state's museums should all be under one department instead of two, as is the case in Louisiana with some museums in the office of secretary of state and others in the office of lieutenant governor.

Secretary Schedler noted that family trust funds go to New Orleans museums, which may create funding discrepancies. Secretary Schedler stated that his department has never closed museums, and that private groups and foundations have supplemented the secretary of state budget to keep the museums open. Secretary Schedler said another misconception that members may have gleaned from Lieutenant Governor Nungesser's presentation was that all museums could be accredited. Secretary Schedler said most museums under his office were smaller and did not rise to the level of accreditation.

Secretary Schedler reiterated that the main issue was money, not moving the responsibility for museums. He said the state does not have enough money to adequately fund all of its museums. Secretary Schedler is actively seeking local entities to handle management and funding of museums under his department to save the state money. He said he met with Governor John Bel Edwards's chief of staff, Jay Dardenne, and made clear that lack of money was the issue for state museums.

Secretary Schedler requested that the legislature give him authority to divest the state of maintenance costs and said he will support bills that would allow local governing authorities to manage museums with local funding. He stated that funding for cutting grass, maintaining piping, and climate controls were necessary for upkeep of museum grounds and for proper care of museum articles. He said the current budget for his office was \$1.5 million to operate 13 museums, and \$1.4 million was needed for the Old State Capitol alone.

Representative Norton noted that every state department's budget suffered cuts. She asked if Secretary Schedler would meet with legislators concerned with the museum funding crisis and

Lieutenant Governor Nungesser. She said she would have no problem pulling a bill she is sponsoring that would move all museums under the control of the lieutenant governor and the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism if all parties would get together.

Representative Richard asked Secretary Schedler if it made sense to put all museums under the authority of the lieutenant governor since his department handles tourism. The secretary said as long as the lieutenant governor takes them all, he would abide by such a decision. He stated that since 2007, he has managed the museums to the best of his financial ability.

Representative Richard asked if money donated by friends of museums required legislative authority. Secretary Schedler replied no.

Chairman Berthelot thanked Secretary Schedler for appearing before the committee.

IV. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 85 by Representative Davis

Representative Davis presented House Bill No. 85, which provides relative to the Broadmoor Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Gary S. Littlefield, representing the Broadmoor Crime Prevention District, 1165 Melanie Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 932-7245, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 85.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 85 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 85 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jenkins, Lyons, Pugh, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 177 by Representative Foil

Representative Foil presented House Bill No. 177, which provides relative to the Louisiana Naval War Memorial Commission.

W. Henson Moore, representing the Louisiana Naval War Memorial Commission, 3109 E. Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 382-3942, spoke in support of House Bill No. 177.

Robert Hawthorne, representing the Louisiana Naval War Memorial Commission, 302 River Road, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 397-0239, spoke in support of House Bill No. 177.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 177 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 177 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jenkins, Lyons, Pugh, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 293 by Representative Havard

Representative Havard presented House Bill No. 293, which increases the maximum per diem authorized to be paid to members of the board of commissioners of gas utility districts located in certain parishes. He shared with committee members a letter (Exhibit A) from Phil T. Graham requesting an increase in the per diem to \$120 for board members of a water utility (currently at \$60) and board members of a gas utility (currently at \$75).

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 293 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 293 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Smith, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 383 by Representative Havard

Representative Havard presented House Bill No. 383, which provides relative to the per diem paid to members of the board of commissioners of waterworks districts located in certain parishes.

Representative Pugh offered amendments that provide for data from the latest federal decennial census be used to determine applicability. Representative Pugh offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Smith, and White voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 383 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 383 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Smith, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 164 by Representative Jay Morris

Representative Jay Morris presented House Bill No. 164, which provides that the Gulf Fritillary butterfly, also referred to as the passion butterfly, shall be the official state butterfly.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 164 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 164 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Smith, White, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 200 by Representative Chad Brown

Representative Chad Brown presented House Bill No. 200, which provides relative to the members of the board of directors of the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority.

Cordell A. Grand, representing the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority, 210 Venture Way, Lafayette, LA, (337) 269-4046, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 200.

Representative Davis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 200 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 200 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, White, and Willmott voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 787 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 787, which provides relative to the Wedgewood Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Willmott offered amendments that, relative to the remittance of the parcel fee, require the sheriff of East Baton Rouge Parish rather than the parish governing authority to remit to the district amounts collected. Representative Willmott offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, White, and Willmott voted yea.

Michael J. Carroccio, representing Wedgewood Crime District, 15308 Waywood Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 742-9199, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 787.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 787 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 787 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, White, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 561 by Representative Pugh

Representative Pugh presented House Bill No. 561, which provides relative to membership in the Zachary Taylor Parkway District and Commission.

Mariah Bowen, representing Zachary Taylor Parkway, 3741 S. Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 939-7576, spoke in support of House Bill No. 561.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 561 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 561 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, White, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 133 by Representative Jim Morris

Representative Jim Morris presented House Bill No. 133, which provides relative to the civil service status of employees of the Housing Authority of the Town of Oil City.

Representative Willmott offered a motion to report House Bill No. 133 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 133 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, White, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 786 by Representative Bishop

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 786, which provides relative to annexation ordinances adopted by municipalities.

Representative Pugh offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 786. Representative Pugh offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, White, and Willmott voted yea.

Kyle Ardoin, representing the office of secretary of state, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, La 70809, (225) 335-1783, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 786.

Angie Rogers, commissioner of elections, office of secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-0900, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 786.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 786 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 786 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Pugh, White, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 796 by Representative Bishop

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 796, which provides relative to the dissolution of municipalities.

Representative Pugh offered amendments that make the bill effective upon signature of the governor and made technical changes. Representative Pugh offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, White, and Willmott voted yea.

Angie Rogers, commissioner of elections, office of secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-0900, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 796.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 796 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 796 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, White, and Willmott voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Representative Norton offered a motion to change the committee meeting start time in the rules from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Without objection, the motion to change the committee meeting's start time from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, White, and Willmott voted yea.

Chairman Berthelot and Vice Chairman Huval made remarks. Committee members who were present introduced themselves.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Pugh offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, White, and Willmott voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman John A. Berthelot
House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Date adopted: May 24, 2017