

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
March 24, 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 8:59 a.m. in Room 6, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

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

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative John A. Berthelot, chairman
Representative Robert E. Billiot
Representative Joseph Bouie Jr.
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
Representative Paula P. Davis

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. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 418 by Representative Moreno

Representative Moreno presented House Bill No. 418, which provides relative to downtown traffic control in the city of New Orleans.

Representative Norton offered amendments that change the area of jurisdiction in which traffic control officers have the authority to direct, control, and regulate traffic; and require the New Orleans Police Department to establish a training program for any traffic control officers. Representative Norton 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, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, and White voted yea.

Superintendent of Police Michael Harrison, New Orleans Police Department, 715 South Broad Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 658-5757, spoke in support of House Bill No. 418.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 418 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 418 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 129 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 129, which provides that the positions of fire chief and assistant fire chief for Winn Parish Fire Protection District No. 3 are in the unclassified service. Representative McFarland distributed Resolution 01-2016 (Exhibit A) to members from the Winn Parish Fire Protection District #3 in favor of House Bill No. 129.

Sheriff Cranford Jordan, representing Fire Protection District #3, P.O. Box 950, Winnfield, LA, (318) 628-4611, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 129.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 129 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 129 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 138 by Representative Armes

Representative Armes presented House Bill No. 138, which authorizes the governing authority of the city of DeRidder to create the classified competitive position of deputy fire chief.

Representative Huval offered a motion to report House Bill No. 138 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 138 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 to provide information only if requested. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 157 by Representative Armes

Representative Armes presented House Bill No. 157, which provides relative to the classified police service in the city of DeRidder.

Police Chief John Gott, representing DeRidder Police Department, 200 South Jefferson, DeRidder, LA, (337) 462-8911, spoke to provide information only on House Bill No. 157.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 157 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 157 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 117 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 117, which provides relative to the classified police service in the city of Crowley.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 117 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 117 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, and White voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 118 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 118, which provides relative to the salaries of firemen in the city of Crowley.

Representative Huval offered a motion to report House Bill No. 118 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 118 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 119 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 119, which provides relative to the powers granted to the chief of police for the city of Rayne.

John Gallagher, representing Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-5001, spoke to provide information only on House Bill No. 119.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 119 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 119 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, and White 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. 158 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 158, which provides relative to the secretary for the municipal fire and police civil service board in the city of Lafayette.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 158 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 158 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 to provide information only if requested. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 858 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 858, which provides relative to the members of the municipal fire and police civil service board.

Chad Major, representing Professional Fire Fighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 572-8483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 858.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 858 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 858 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, and White 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. 859 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 859, which provides relative to the appointment and removal of employees of the municipal fire and police civil service.

Chad Major, representing Professional Fire Fighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 572-8483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 859.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 859 favorably, to which Representative Richard objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 859 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Smith, White, and Willmott voted yea. Representatives Marcelle and Richard voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 860 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 860, which provides that the attorney general shall be the legal counsel for the state examiner of the municipal fire and police civil service.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 860. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 860 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, 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. 861 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 861, which provides relative to defined terms within the provisions governing the municipal fire and police civil service.

Chad Major, representing Professional Fire Fighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 572-8483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 861.

Representative Billiot offered amendments to include fire departments of parishes and fire protections districts within the definition of "regular paid or regularly paid department". Representative Billiot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, White, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Richard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 861 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 861 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, 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. 873 by Representative Montoucet

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 873, which provides relative to officers and employees of the municipal fire and police civil service.

Chad Major, representing Professional Fire Fighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 572-8483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 873.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 873 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 873 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, White, and Willmott voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: May 24, 2017