

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
May 19, 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.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative John A. Berthelot, chairman
Representative Robert E. Billiot
Representative Joseph Bouie Jr.
Representative Paula P. Davis
Representative Stephen C. Dwight
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Cedric B. Glover
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 Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Katie LeLeux, attorney
Valarie Banks, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 207 by Senator Colomb**

On behalf of Senator Colomb, Dannie Garrett, representing Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, presented Senate Bill No. 207, which provides for legislation relative to the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act.

Representative Richard offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 207 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 207 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, and White voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 412 by Senator Brown

Senator Brown presented Senate Bill No. 412, which authorizes creation of special districts within certain cities and provides for the governance and the powers and duties of the district, including tax increment finance authority.

Representative Billiot offered amendments to remove the chief executive officer of the local convention and visitor's bureau or tourism commission, or his designee, from the district's board of commissioners and instead add the chief executive officer of the local downtown development district, or his designee. Representative Billiot 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, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Jenkins, Lyons, Pugh, Richard, and White voted yea.

Representative Richard offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 412 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 412 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, 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. 1073 by Representative Robert Johnson

House Bill No. 1073 authorizes Avoyelles Parish to appoint game and fish commissions.

Representative Dwight offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1073. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 1073 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, and White voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The committee received testimony from the Louisiana Workforce Commission regarding the Community Services Block Grant program in response to a request from Representative Pugh on revisions to the formula used to allocate federal funds to Louisiana parishes. Bryan Moore, director of the Office of Workforce Commission, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001, North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-3001, provided updates on the Community Service Block Grant program. Mr. Moore stated that 42 community action agencies serviced the 64 parishes in Louisiana. He presented information on the number of people at or below federal poverty guidelines in each parish (Exhibit A) and discussed the process used to arrive at the revised formula for financial distribution to the agencies. He said the formula determined a per-person cost based on funds received from the federal government, and funds were disbursed to parishes corresponding to the number of persons in poverty. Representatives Bouie and Marcelle thanked Mr. Moore for the democratic process used to arrive at the distribution formula and for his presentation to the committee. Representatives Pugh, Lyons, Billiot, Glover, and White expressed their thoughts on the distribution formula and asked questions relative to the areas they represented. Representative Glover asked for data on the amounts distributed to Caddo Parish for the previous five years. Mr. Moore agreed to electronically send the information to him.

Jonie Smith, representing Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-4337, discussed the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 2016 poverty guidelines and distributed a document, "2016 Poverty Guidelines" (Exhibit B) to members.

Thelma H. French, representing Total Community Action-Orleans, 1420 S. Jefferson Davis, New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 872-0336, spoke in support of the revised distribution formula for Community Service Block Grants.

Larry St. Amant, representing the Association of Community Action Partnerships of Louisiana, 7931 Picardy Avenue, Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 614-8868, spoke in support of the revised distribution formula for Community Service Block Grants.

Wallace Sibley, representing Quad Area Community Action Agency, 45300 North Baptist Road, Hammond, LA 70401, (225) 567-2350, spoke in opposition to the revised distribution formula for Community Service Block Grants.

Edwin R. Soule, representing Quad Area Community Action Agency, 42798 Scarlotta, Hammond, LA 70402, (225) 245-0439, spoke in opposition to the revised distribution formula for Community Service Block Grants.

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

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Pugh offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: May 24, 2017