

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
June 2, 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 10:59 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 Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Mike Huval, vice chairman
Representative Sam L. Jenkins Jr.
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Barbara M. Norton
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Stephen E. Pugh
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 137 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 137, which provides for boundaries, board membership and tax authority of the Baton Rouge North Economic Development District and a hotel occupancy tax in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Paul Arrigo, representing Visit Baton Rouge, 359 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 382-3583, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 137.

William Daniel, representing the city of Baton Rouge, 222 St. Louis Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 389-5103, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 137.

Representative Richard offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 137 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 137 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Richard, 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

To determine whether the following entities shall be continued, modified, or terminated as required by Act No. 184 of the 2013 Regular Session: Grant Parish Economic and Industrial Development District Board of Commissioners; I-12 Retirement District Board of Directors; and Madison Parish Economic and Industrial Development District Board of Commissioners.

Rick McGimsey, representing the Department of Administration (no address given), (225) 342-7058, explained the process of the department's annual review of boards and commissions. He said boards and commissions were out of compliance when not meeting website information requirements, which included how many members were on the board or commission, the members' names, compensation, terms of membership, and member selection process. In response to a question from Representative Hilferty, Mr. McGimsey said 49 out of 400 boards and commissions in Louisiana were out of compliance.

- Grant Parish Economic and Industrial Development District board of commissioners

Committee Attorney Tina Righteous, at the request of Chairman Berthelot, attempted to contact the members listed on the website for the Grant Parish Economic and Industrial Development District board of commissioners but was unsuccessful. Chairman Berthelot contacted Representative Terry Brown, in whose district the board was established. Representative Terry Brown's investigation concluded that the board was no longer in operation. Chairman Berthelot asked Mr. McGimsey what the next steps would be for a board that was not in operation. Mr. McGimsey said the committee had the authority under statute to recommend termination of the board.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to direct the Grant Parish Economic and Industrial Development District to terminate its board operations. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, and White voted yea.

- I-12 Retirement District board of directors

Representative White said the I-12 Retirement District board of directors was within her legislative district, and she would attempt to contact members of the board to determine if the board was in operation.

Chairman Berthelot stated that the committee would give Representative White more time to investigate the status of the board.

- Madison Parish Economic and Industrial Development District board of commissioners

Representative Anders said the Madison Parish Economic and Industrial Development District board of commissioners was within his legislative district, and he would attempt, along with Senator Francis Thompson, to contact members of the board to determine if the board was in operation.

Chairman Berthelot stated that the committee would give Representative Anders more time to investigate the status of the board.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Huval offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: May 24, 2017