

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
May 3, 2017

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 8:00 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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 C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Barbara M. Norton
Representative Stephen E. Pugh
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Bryan D. Vincent, director
Valarie Banks, secretary
David Gauthier, analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 56 by Representative Price

Representative Price presented House Bill No. 56, which provides relative to the West Ascension Parish Hospital Service District.

Bill Dawson, Ascension Parish Council, no address given, Gonzales, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Oliver Joseph, Ascension Parish Council, 1409 Millien Road, Donaldsonville, LA 70346, 225-348-0254, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Glenn Robert, Prevost Memorial Hospital, 1106 Mississippi Street, Donaldsonville, LA 70346, 225-478-7573, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 56.

August "AJ" Gomez, Prevost Memorial Hospital, 1417 St. Patrick Street, Donaldsonville, LA, 225-473-8857, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 56 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Vince Cataldo, Prevost Memorial Hospital, 301 Memorial Drive, Donaldsonville, LA 70346, 225-474-2139, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 56.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 56 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 56 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Stagni, and White voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 57 by Representative Price

Representative Price presented House Bill No. 57, which authorizes West Ascension Recreation Facilities District No. 1 to levy a sales tax.

Bill Dawson, Ascension Parish Council, no address given, Gonzales, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 57 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 57 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Stagni, 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. 262 by Representative Jimmy Harris

Representative Jimmy Harris presented House Bill No. 262, which provides relative to the industrial development board for the city of New Orleans.

Ryan Berni, city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-4900, spoke in support of House Bill No. 262.

Rebecca Conwell, city of New Orleans, 1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor, New Orleans, LA, (504) 658-4288, spoke in support of House Bill No. 262.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to report House Bill No. 262 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 262 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Pugh, Richard, Stagni, 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. 150 by Representative Dustin Miller

Representative Dustin Miller presented House Bill No. 150, which provides relative to the name of the South St. Landry Community Library District.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to report House Bill No. 150 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 150 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Pugh, Richard, Stagni, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 377 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 377, which requires the Jefferson Council on Aging to allocate certain levels of funding to designated community and senior centers.

Representative Billiot offered amendments to change proposed law such that it requires that the council provide for and fund services at the designated centers rather than requiring the council to allocate funds to the centers; to add a requirement that services be provided at the request of a center's director, and to add authorization for the governing body of the council to fund additional services. 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, Davis, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Albert Robichaux, Jefferson Council on Aging executive director, 6620 Riverside Drive, Metairie, LA 70003, (504) 207-4140, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 377.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 377 with amendments, to which Representative Pugh objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 377 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea. Representatives Pugh and Richard voted nay.

House Bill No. 109 by Representative DeVillier

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 109, which provides relative to the St. Landry Parish central collection commission for sales and use taxes.

Representative Dustin Miller, House District No. 40, spoke in support of House Bill No. 109.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 109 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 109 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Dwight, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 146 by Representative DeVillier

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 146, which provides relative to the per diem paid to board members of Hospital Service District No. 1 of St. Landry Parish.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 146 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 146 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Dwight, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 623 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 623, which creates the New Orleans Street Maintenance District in the city of New Orleans.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 623. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 623 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Dwight, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 587 by Representative Hunter

House Bill No. 587 provides relative to the Prairie Road Water District in Ouachita Parish.

Representative Smith offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 587. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 587 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Dwight, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 71 by Representative Carmody

Representative Carmody presented House Bill No. 71, which provides for the conservation of public military memorials.

Representative Huval offered amendments to authorize a parish or municipal governing authority to take an action otherwise prohibited by proposed law if the action is approved by the voters. Representative Huval offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot,

Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Vice Chairman Huval in the chair.

Major Bradley Hayes, Sons of the American Revolution, 210 Turnberry Drive, Covington, LA 70433, (985) 302-5203, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Chairman Berthelot in the chair.

Brenda O'Brock, Louisiana Power Coalition, LLC, 248 Lake Point Drive, Shreveport, LA, (318) 469-0957, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71 and provided handouts, Exhibit B, which are included in the committee records.

Ron Chatelain, U.S. Army (retired) major, 9306 Stonebriar Circle, Shreveport, LA (318) 797-1094, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Rob Maness, U.S. Air Force (retired) colonel, Louisiana Power Coalition, no address given, Madisonville, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Bonnie Pharr, Louisiana Power Coalition, 8986 Marlow Drive, Shreveport, LA, (318) 687-8193, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71 and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Randall L. Jarreau, 3691 Poydras Bayou Road, no city given, (225) 627-5869, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Pierre A. McGraw, Monumental Task Committee, 1215 Prytania, New Orleans, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

State Senator Beth Mizell, Senate District No. 12, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

State Senator John Milkovich, Senate District No. 38, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

George Schmidt, 626 Julia Street, no address given, (504) 592-0206, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Patricia H. Gay, Preservation Resource Center, 923 Tchoupitoulas Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 581-7032, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Richard Marksbury, 8131 Birch Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 861-0914, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71 and provided handouts, Exhibit D, which are included in the committee records.

Charles Saucier, Libertarian Party of Louisiana, 42082 Meadow Lane, Ponchatoula, LA, (985) 687-2794, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Cheri Barrow, Monumental Task Committee, 419 Hickory Avenue, Harahan, LA 70123, (504) 738-0056, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Franklin H. Jones, Monumental Task Committee, 1662 Valmont Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, (504) 897-5482, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Jonathan Neil Maki, no address given, New Orleans, LA, (504) 983-1115, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Kendall Coward, Monumental Task Committee, 1103 Soniat Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, (208) 651-6657, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Donna Guichard, Adams Middle School, 5525 Henican Place, Metairie, LA 70003, (504) 466-5488, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Kurt Buchert, Monumental Task Committee, 1009 Bellecastle Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Peter Glover, 3626 East Grandlake Boulevard, no city given, (504) 251-8611, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Charles Marsala, Save NOLA Heritage, 2511 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA, (504) 900-1421, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Steve Jones, Monumental Task Committee, 2117 Creedmore Drive, St. Bernard, LA 70085, (504) 756-7595, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Tom Angers, 116 Teche Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 501-2538, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Bernie Cyrus, 75124 Highway 35, Covington, LA 70435, (925) 246-8213, spoke in support of House Bill No. 71.

Ryan Berni, city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-4900, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 71.

Steven Kennedy, Justice and Beyond, no address given, (504) 484-9610, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 71.

Sarah Omojola, Southern Poverty Law Center, 1055 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 526-1520, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 71.

Rodney Braxton, city of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 71.

Steven Jackson, Caddo Parish Commission District, 505 Travis Street, no city given, (no area code) 222-6900, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 71.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 71 with amendments, to which Representative Smith objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 71 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Pugh, Richard, and White voted yea. Representatives Bouie, Glover, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Smith, and Stagni voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 31 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Berthelot announced that House Bill No. 41 by Representative Bishop, a constitutional amendment which provides relative to the frequency of submission of tax propositions by political subdivisions, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

Chairman Berthelot announced that House Bill No. 201 by Representative Marcelle, which provides relative to the Melrose Place Crime Prevention District, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Huval offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: