

House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
May 15, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Kenneth E. Havard, chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Kenneth E. Havard, chairman
Representative Terry R. Brown
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Stephen F. Carter
Representative A B Franklin
Representative Jerry Gisclair
Representative John E. Guinn
Representative Jeffrey "Jeff" Hall
Representative Dorothy Sue Hill
Representative Frank A. Howard
Representative Terry C. Landry, Sr., vice chairman
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Vincent J. Pierre
Representative J. Rogers Pope
Representative John M. Stefanski
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative H. Bernard LeBas
Representative Barbara M. Norton

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ashleigh Clare-Kearney, attorney
Craig Cassagne, attorney
Angelique R. Mozee, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Zachary Lester, committee clerk
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Beverly Vincent, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 380 by Representative Bagneris**

Representative Havard announced that action on House Bill No. 380, which provides additional appropriations out of the Crescent City Transition Fund, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 602 by Representative Glover

Representative Havard announced that action on House Bill No. 602, which provides relative to the membership of the Red River Waterway Commission, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 605 by Representative Hodges

Representative Havard announced that action on House Bill No. 605, which provides relative to the Statewide Flood-Control Program, was voluntarily deferred.

Senate Bill No. 15 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 15, which repeals the provision that prohibits a commissioner of the St. Tammany Levee, Drainage and Conservation District, whose term is expired, from continuing to serve or vote.

Representative Guinn offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 15 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 15 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Havard, Terry Landry, Terry Brown, Carpenter, Steve Carter, Franklin, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hill, Howard, Pierre, Pope, Stefanski, 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.

Senate Bill No. 20 by Senator Ward

Senator Ward presented Senate Bill No. 20, which provides relative to meetings, election of officers, and per diem for members of the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Terry Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 20 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 20 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Havard, Terry Brown, Carpenter, Steve Carter, Franklin, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hill, Howard, Terry Landry, Pierre, Pope, Stefanski, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 94 by Senator Gary Smith

Senator Gary Smith presented Senate Bill No. 94, which designates portions of certain state highways.

Representative Havard offered an amendment to require local or private monies be received by the Dept. of Transportation and Development, equal to the department's costs to erect each sign, not to exceed \$550 per sign. Representative Havard offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Havard, Terry Brown, Carpenter, Franklin, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hill, Howard, Terry Landry, Pierre, Pope, Stefanski, and White voted yea.

Mr. Sam M. Zinna, 401 Evergreen Drive, Destrehan, LA 70047, (504) 329-8727, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 94.

Representative Terry Landry offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 94 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 94 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Havard, Terry Brown, Carpenter, Steve Carter, Franklin, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hill, Howard, Terry Landry, Marcelle, Pierre, Pope, Stefanski, and White voted yea.

Representative Terry Landry in the chair.

Senate Bill No. 127 by Senator Thompson

On behalf of Senator Thompson, Representative Havard presented Senate Bill No. 127, which prohibits certain coverings and devices from obstructing a license plate.

Captain Greg Graphia, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-4236, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 127.

Representative Terry Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 127 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 127 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Havard, Terry Brown, Carpenter, Steve Carter, Franklin, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hill, Howard, Terry Landry, Marcelle, Pierre, Pope, Stefanski, 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.

Representative Havard in the chair.

House Bill No. 552 by Representative Jordan

Representative Jordan presented House Bill No. 552, which provides relative to the members of the Greater Baton Rouge Airport Authority board of commissioners.

Mr. Michael Taffard, Baton Rouge Metro Airport, 9430 Jackie Cochran Drive, Suite 300, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, (225) 355-0333, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 552.

Representative Havard offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 552. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 552 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Havard, Terry Brown, Carpenter, Steve Carter, Franklin, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hill, Howard, Terry Landry, Marcelle, Pierre, Pope, Stefanski, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 597 by Representative Bagley

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 597, which eliminates the inspection sticker requirement for certain vehicles.

Representative Havard offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Clarify certain municipalities may retain their motor vehicle inspection program.
3. Establishes the motor vehicle equipment and safety certification program; the fees related to the programs and penalties for violations.

Representative Havard offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Havard, Terry Brown, Carpenter, Steve Carter, Franklin, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hill, Howard, Terry Landry, Marcelle, Pierre, Pope, Stefanski, and White voted yea.

Captain Greg Graphia, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-4236, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 597.

Ms. Karen St. Germain, commissioner, office of motor vehicles, P.O. Box 64886, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (225) 925-6161, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 597.

Representative Terry Landry offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 597. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 597 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Havard, Terry Brown, Carpenter, Steve Carter, Franklin, Guinn, Hall, Hill, Howard, Terry Landry, Marcelle, Pierre, Pope, Stefanski, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 606 by Representative Havard

Representative Havard presented House Bill No. 606, which increases charges and clarifies contract requirements relative to public license tag agents.

Representative Havard offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Havard offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Havard, Carpenter, Steve Carter, Franklin, Guinn, Hall, Hill, Howard, Terry Landry, Marcelle, Pierre, Pope, Stefanski, and White voted yea.

Mr. Duane Cowart, Louisiana Public Tag Association, 10935 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 405-4088, spoke in support of House Bill No. 606.

Ms. Staci Hoyt, office of motor vehicles, P.O. Box 64886, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (225) 925-4656, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 606.

Mr. Stephen Quidd, office of motor vehicles, P.O. Box 66614, (225) 925-6103, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 606.

Ms. Karen St. Germain, commissioner, office of motor vehicles, P. O. Box 64886, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 606.

Representative Havard offered an amendment to the substitute bill to remove errors in document submission committed knowingly and willfully by the public license tag agent and willfully by an employee with the knowledge of the public license tag agent as a cause for Office of Motor Vehicle to suspend, revoke, cancel, or impose other restrictions on any contract conferred pursuant to R.S. 47:532.1. Representative Havard offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Havard, Terry Brown, Carpenter, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hill, Howard, Marcelle, Pierre, Pope, Stefanski, and White voted yea.

Representative Gisclair offered a motion to report House Bill No. 606 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 606 was reported by substitute by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Havard, Terry Brown, Carpenter, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hill, Howard, Marcelle, Pierre, Pope, Stefanski, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 603 by Representative Falconer

Representative Falconer presented House Bill No. 603, which increases charges and clarifies contract requirements relative to public license tag agents.

Representative Havard offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Decrease the convenience charge from \$28 to \$24 for the provision of information on the status of registration privileges and reinstatement.
3. Specify that the convenience charge for motor carriers must not exceed \$18.
4. Remove all provisions relative to contracts between the office of motor vehicles and public license tag agents.

Representative Havard offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Havard, Terry Brown, Carpenter, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hill, Howard, Pierre, Pope, Stefanski, and White voted yea.

Mr. Daniel Casey, Dealer Track-Cox Automation, 34 Audubon Lane, Madisonville, LA 70447, (504) 875-1014, spoke in support of House Bill No. 603.

Ms. Karen St. Germain, commissioner, office of motor vehicles, P. O. Box 64886, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (225) 925-6161, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 603.

Ms. Staci Hoyt, office of motor vehicles, P.O. Box 64886, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (225) 925-4656, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 603.

Mr. Bob White, Louisiana Public Tag Association, 300 Gause Boulevard West, Slidell, LA 70460, (985) 643-5500, spoke in support of House Bill No. 603.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 603 with amendments, to which Representative Hill objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 603 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Havard, Franklin, Gisclair, Guinn, Pierre, Pope, Stefanski, and White voted yea. Representatives Terry Brown, Carpenter, Hall, Hill and Terry Landry voted nay.

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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Kenneth E. Havard
House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Date approved: