

## **House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs**

Minutes of Meeting  
2018 Regular Session  
March 29, 2018

### **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 8:58 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 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  
Representative Mark Wright

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Joseph Bouie, Jr.  
Representative Paula P. Davis

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tina Righteous, attorney  
Valarie Banks, secretary

David Gauthier, analyst  
Lisa Lovello, analyst

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Christina Porter, clerk  
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms  
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**House Bill No. 72 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 72, which provides relative to the classified fire service in the city of Houma.

Chad Major, Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana, 9021 Aurora Lane, Shreveport, LA 71115, (225) 572-8483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 72.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 72 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 72 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 70 by Representative Jenkins**

Representative Jenkins presented House Bill No. 70, which provides relative to the classified fire service in the city of Shreveport.

Chad Major, Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana, 9021 Aurora Lane, Shreveport, LA 71115, (225) 572-8483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 70.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 70 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 70 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 93 by Representative Bagneris**

Representative Bagneris presented House Bill No. 93, which provides relative to the Lake Bullard Neighborhood Improvement District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 93 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 93 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

**House Bill No. 94 by Representative Bagneris**

Representative Bagneris presented House Bill No. 94, which repeals requirement that nonprofits that own property in New Orleans annually apply to the assessor for the property tax exemption granted by the state constitution.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 94 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 94 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright 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. 629 by Representative Jones**

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 629, which provides for the creation of a municipal consortium.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 629 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 629 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

**House Bill No. 103 by Representative LeBas**

Representative LeBas presented House Bill No. 103, which provides relative to the compensation of the commissioners of the Evangeline Parish Waterworks District No. 1.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to report House Bill No. 103 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 103 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 404 by Representative Robby Carter**

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 404, which provides relative to per diem paid to commissioners of Tangipahoa Parish Recreation District No. 3. Representative Robby Carter submitted the classifieds section of the *Amite Tangi Digest* dated March 28, 2018, with minutes from the March 2, 2018, special meeting of the Tangipahoa Parish Recreational District #3 that recorded a vote in favor of House Bill No. 404 (Exhibit B), which is included in the committee records.

Representative Billiot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 404 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 404 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 106 by Representative Stefanski**

Representative Stefanski presented House Bill No. 106, which provides relative to the term of office of the Acadia Parish treasurer.

Wayne Johnson, Jr., P.O. Box 1229, no city given, (985) 662-4148, spoke in support of House Bill No. 106.

Representative Richard offered amendments to require the parish treasurer to serve a term that is concurrent with the term of the parish governing authority members; require the parish governing authority to make an appointment if a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of a term; and change the bill's effective date. Representative Richard 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, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Richard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 106 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 106 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

**House Bill No. 133 by Representative Brass**

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 133, which authorizes the governing authority of the city of Gonzales to levy a hotel occupancy tax. Representative Brass presented a document titled "Resolution of Support from the Mayor and City Council of the City of Gonzales Supporting HB133 Authorizing the Governing Authority of the City of Gonzales to levy a hotel occupancy tax", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Barney Arceneaux, mayor of Gonzales, 120 South Irma Boulevard, Gonzales, LA 70737, (225) 642-2841, spoke in support of House Bill No. 133.

Scot Byrd, city of Gonzales, 120 South Irma Boulevard, Gonzales, LA 70737, (225) 647-9551, spoke in support of House Bill No. 133.

Barker Dirmann, Ascension Chamber of Commerce, 1006 West Highway 30, Gonzales, LA, (985) 630-4696, spoke in support of House Bill No. 133.

Al Schof, Comfort Suites and Home 2 Suites, Gonzales, LA, (225) 936-4508, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 133.

Kevin Kelly, 40136 Highway 942, Darrow, LA, (504) 628-6000, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 133.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 133 favorably, to which Representative Pugh objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 133 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea. Representatives Hilferty and Pugh voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 5 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 202 by Representative Havard**

Representative Havard presented House Bill No. 202, which (Constitutional Amendment) Authorizes any political subdivision to charge discount rates to certain residents of the political subdivision for utility services.

Representative Glover offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 202. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 202 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright 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. 381 by Representative Havard**

Representative Havard presented House Bill No. 381, which provides relative to members of municipal fire and police civil service boards.

Chad Major, Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana, 9021 Aurora Lane, Shreveport, LA 71115, (225) 572-8483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 381.

Robert S. Lawrence, Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service state examiner, 8550 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 901, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4400, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 381.

Representative Wright offered a motion to report House Bill No. 381 favorably, to which Representative Stagni objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Dwight, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Richard, and Wright voted yea. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Glover, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Smith, Stagni, and White voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 660 by Representative Magee**

Representative Magee presented House Bill No. 660, which creates the Native American Commission within the office of the governor.

Dr. Chaunda Mitchell, Office of the Governor–Indian Affairs, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 660.

Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar, Tribe of the Grand Caillou Dulac Band, 5057 Bayou Drive, Chauvin, LA 70344, (985) 791-2222, spoke in support of House Bill No. 660.

Chief Thomas Dardar, Jr., United Houma Nation, 20986 Highway 1, Golden Meadow, LA 70357, (985) 223-3093, spoke in support of House Bill No. 660.

Representative Dwight offered amendments to add a provision that prohibits the commission from recommending legislation that would impair ownership interests in any immovable property or any mineral rights associated therewith. Representative Dwight 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, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Wright offered a motion to report House Bill No. 660 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 660 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright 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. 205 by Representative Stagni**

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 205, which authorizes the governing authority of the city of Kenner to name the Kenner police complex in honor of a living person.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 205 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 205 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright 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. 677 by Representative Jackson**

At the request of Representative Jackson, Representative Smith presented House Bill No. 677, which provides public defenders the option to enter the parish government's health care system.

James T. Dixon, Jr., Louisiana Public Defender Board, 301 Main Street, Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 219-9305, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 677.

Representative Smith offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 677. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 677 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

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

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Berthelot announced that the next meeting of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs would be Friday, April 6, 2018, prior to the convening of the House of Representatives at 1 p.m.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Pugh offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: