

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2018 Regular Session
April 13, 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 8:30 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
Representative Mark Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 362 by Senator Ward

Senator Ward presented Senate Bill No. 362, which creates regional authority for certain infrastructure needs and provides relative to taxing powers and uses.

Representative Berthelot offered amendments to change the composition of the district's board; specifically, remove a member appointed by the governing authority of each parish in the district and add the president of each parish or his designee, and add a gubernatorial appointee; and to add a requirement that the voter approval of tax and bond propositions requires approval of a majority voting in each parish. Representative Berthelot offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 362 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 362 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Smith, 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. 802 by Representative Hill

On behalf of Representative Hill, Representative Dwight presented House Bill No. 802, which provides relative to Gravity Drainage Districts in Calcasieu Parish.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 802 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 802 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and Wright voted yea.

House Bill No. 837 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 837, which provides relative to powers of crime prevention districts.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 837 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 837 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

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.

House Bill No. 867 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 867, which provides relative to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 867 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 867 was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

House Bill No. 408 by Representative Jenkins

Representative Jenkins presented House Bill No. 408, which provides relative to reimbursement rates set by local governing authorities for emergency medical services.

Representative Jenkins offered amendments to delete proposed provision that if a local governing authority adopts a fee schedule setting reimbursement rates, that schedule shall be presumed to be the usual, customary, and reasonable charge in any dispute involving such reimbursement; and to add a provision regarding rates charged for ambulance services that are set by a local governing authority being the minimum allowable charge under any health insurance policy. Representative Jenkins offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

Gregory D. Frost, Louisiana Ambulance Alliance, 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-4000, spoke in support of House Bill No. 408.

David Montgomery, city councilman at large, Bossier City, no address given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 408.

Brad Zagone, fire chief, Bossier City Fire Department, 620 Benton Road, Bossier City, LA 71111, (318) 741-8700, spoke in support of House Bill No. 408.

A. Butch Browning, state fire marshal, no address given, 225-806-0803, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 408.

Aaron Johnson, Jackson Parish Ambulance District, 115 Watts Street, Jonesboro, LA 71251, (318) 259-2877, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 408.

David Lavergne, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Louisiana, 5525 Reitz Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 298-1532, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 408.

Kevin Egge, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Louisiana, 1712 Edinburgh Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 297-7087, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 408.

Jeff Drozda, Louisiana Association of Health Plans, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1850, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 378-3206, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 408.

Curry Landry, Louisiana Ambulance Alliance, 301 Main Street, Suite 600, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 663-2758, spoke in support of House Bill No. 408.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 408 with amendments, to which Representative Wright objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 408 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Stagni, and White voted yea. Representatives Davis, Edmonds, Richard, and Wright voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 26 in support, and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Vice Chairman Huval in the chair.

House Bill No. 536 by Representative Jimmy Harris

Representative Jimmy Harris presented House Bill No. 536, which provides relative to nuisances in certain municipalities.

Representative Huval offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 536. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 536 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Billiot, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Stagni, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 872 by Representative Jimmy Harris

Representative Jimmy Harris presented House Bill No. 872, which provides relative to industrial development boards in certain municipalities.

Chairman Berthelot in the chair.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 872 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 872 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, 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. 840 by Representative Jimmy Harris

Representative Jimmy Harris presented House Bill No. 840, which provides relative to the application for an occupational license.

Joshua Hollins, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 379-1200, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 840.

Rodney Braxton, City of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166, spoke in support of House Bill No. 840.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 840 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 840 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Stagni, and White voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 32 by Senator Hewitt

On behalf of Senator Hewitt, Representative Pearson presented Senate Bill No. 32, which provides relative to the St. Tammany Parish Hospital Service District No. 2.

Gilbert Ganucheau, Jr., Slidell Memorial Hospital, 1001 Gause Boulevard, Slidell, LA 70458, (504) 616-5238, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 32.

Representative White offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 32 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 32 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Stagni, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 481 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Bill No. 481, which provides relative to the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

Representative Carpenter presented pictures, Exhibit A; a letter in support of House Bill No. 481 from state senator for District No. 15, Regina A. Barrow; and a letter from Baton Rouge/East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, which are included in the committee records.

Representative Billiot offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Billiot offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Mayor Darnell Waits, city of Baker, 3325 Groom Road, Baker, LA 70714, (225) 778-0300, spoke in support of House Bill No. 481.

Becky Bond, Keep the Zoo @ Greenwood Park, 17522 Bennett Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (501) 416-2015, spoke in support of House Bill No. 481.

Chauna Banks, Baton Rouge District 2 Metro Council, 2013 Central Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, (225) 389-8331, spoke in support of House Bill No. 481.

Mary H. Manhein, Keep the Zoo at Greenwood Park, 6511 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 926-4543, spoke in support of House Bill No. 481.

Commissioner Lloyd Benson, BREC, 12606 S. Highmeadow Court, no city given, (225) 505-6300, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 481.

Kevin Hayes, Friends of Baton Rouge Zoo, 412 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 268-2725, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 481.

Joseph G. Simmons, 5420 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 101, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 925-6963, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 481.

Commissioner Rossie Washington, Jr., BREC, 10822 Waverland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 288-4423, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 481.

Carolyn McKnight, BREC director, 6201 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 273-6420, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 481.

Representative Norton offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 481. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 481 was voluntarily deferred 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.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 2 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Adoption of the minutes of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs from 2017 Regular Session committee meetings dated April 20, April 27, May 3, May 11, May 18, May 24, and June 1, 2017

Representative Pugh offered a motion to adopt the minutes of the House Committee on Municipal Parochial and Cultural Affairs from 2017 Regular Session Committee meetings dated April 20, April 27, May 3, May 11, May 18, May 24, and June 1, 2017. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Pugh offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, adjourn by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: