

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2018 Regular Session
May 3, 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 9:01 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 Stephen C. Dwight
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Stephen E. Pugh
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Mark Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Paula P. Davis
Representative Cedric B. Glover
Representative Mike Huval, vice chairman
Representative Barbara M. Norton
Representative Jerome Richard

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Valarie Banks, secretary
David Gauthier, analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Andrew Bougard, clerk
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Janet McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 542 by Senator Johns

Senator Johns presented Senate Bill No. 542, which authorizes the levy and collection of an additional hotel and motel tax of one percent in Calcasieu Parish and in each municipality in the parish.

Representative Edmonds offered amendments to:

1. Remove authority granted to Calcasieu Parish and each municipality within the parish to levy a hotel occupancy tax and instead authorizes the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau to levy the tax.
2. Remove requirement that tax proceeds be remitted by the governing authorities of Calcasieu Parish and each municipality within the parish to the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau and then disbursed by the bureau to such governing authorities.
3. Authorize the governing authority of the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau to collect the hotel occupancy tax or to contract with any public entity authorized to collect sales and use taxes.
4. Remove requirement that not more than one percent of the net proceeds be deducted for collection expenses and instead requires that not more than five percent of the net proceeds be deducted for dedication to the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau Project Enhancement Grant Program.
5. Add a requirement that the disbursements made to Calcasieu Parish and each municipality within the parish be based on the tax revenue collected from hotels and motels located within the applicable jurisdiction.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Dwight, Edmonds, Jenkins, Lyons, Pugh, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Chairman Berthelot referenced a letter in support of Senate Bill No. 542, Exhibit A, which was distributed to members and is included in the committee records.

Representative Dwight offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 542 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 542 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Dwight, Edmonds, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Stagni, and White 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.

Senate Bill No. 487 by Senator Appel

Senator Appel presented Senate Bill No. 487, which authorizes investigative powers to the Jefferson Parish Inspector General's Office relative to the Jefferson Parish School Board.

David McClintock, Jefferson Parish office of the investigator general, 5401 Jefferson Highway, Jefferson, LA 70123, (504) 736-8962, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 487.

Brad Richard, office of the Jefferson Parish attorney, 1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Jefferson, LA 70123, (504) 736-6303, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 487.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 487, to which Representative Hilferty objected. The secretary called the roll, and action on Senate Bill No. 487 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Billiot, Bouie, Dwight, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea. Representatives Berthelot, Edmonds, Hilferty, Pugh, and Wright voted nay.

House Resolution No. 148 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Resolution No. 148, which creates a task force on the policies of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

Representative Berthelot offered amendments to add the mayors of the cities of Central and Zachary to the task force. Representative Berthelot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Smith offered amendments to replace the state representative for House District No. 67 with the state representative for House District No. 29 as a member of the task force.

Representative Smith offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to add "or his designee" after each mayor listed on the task force. Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

Carolyn McKnight, BREC director, 5201 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 273-6420, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 148.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 148 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 148 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Dwight, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jenkins, Marcelle, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 552 by Senator Chabert

Senator Chabert presented Senate Bill No. 552, which relative to the Lafourche Parish Hotel occupancy tax.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 552 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 552 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Dwight, Hilferty, Jenkins, Marcelle, Pugh, 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.

Senate Bill No. 546 by Senator Erdey

On behalf of Senator Erdey, Representative Berthelot presented Senate Bill No. 546, which provides relative to terms of the members of the board of commissioners of mosquito abatement districts.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 546 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 546 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Dwight, Hilferty, Jenkins, Marcelle, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 509 by Senator Morrell

On behalf of Senator Morrell, Representative Hilferty presented Senate Bill No. 509, which reduces the membership of the board of commissioners for the University Neighborhood Security and Improvement District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 509 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 509 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Dwight, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jenkins, Marcelle, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Pugh offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Dwight, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jenkins, Marcelle, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: