

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
May 7, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Mike Huval, chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Mike Huval, chairman
Representative Mary DuBuisson
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Markham Scott McKnight
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Joseph A. Stagni, vice chairman
Representative Matthew Willard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Cedric B. Glover
Representative C. Denise Marcelle

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Valarie Banks, committee administrative assistant
David Gauthier, analyst
Bryan D. Vincent, director

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Chairman Huval announced that a three-minute rule for presentation of instruments and three minutes for each committee member's questions were in effect for this meeting.

House Bill No. 537 by Representative Farnum

Representative Farnum presented House Bill No. 537, which provides relative to the Sulphur Industrial Development District.

Mayor Mike Danahay, city of Sulphur, 101 North Huntington Street, Sulphur, LA 70663, (337) 527-4500, spoke in support of House Bill No. 537.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 537 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 537 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 375 by Representative Farnum

Representative Farnum presented House Bill No. 375, which provides relative to gravity drainage districts in Calcasieu Parish.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 375 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 375 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 378 by Representative White

Representative White presented House Bill No. 378, which provides relative to compensation for members of the Washington Parish planning commission. She distributed a copy of "Washington Parish Council RESOLUTION NO. 19-955" in favor of House Bill No. 378, which is Exhibit #1 in the committee records.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 378 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 378 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 162 by Representative Larvadain

Representative Larvadain presented House Bill No. 162, which provides relative to the use of tax increment financing in Rapides Parish.

Representative Huval offered amendments to House Bill No. 162, which Tina Righteous, committee attorney, explained would limit the use of tax increment financing by the Alexandria city governing authority to funding economic development projects in a specific district, rather than the entire city, and provide for district boundaries. Representative Huval offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 162 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 162 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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. 292 by Representative Dwight

Representative Dwight presented House Bill No. 292, which provides relative to hotel occupancy taxes levied by certain tourist commissions and convention and visitors bureaus.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 292 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 292 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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.

House Bill No. 374 by Representative Echols

Representative Echols presented House Bill No. 374, which establishes an economic development district in Morehouse Parish.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 374 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 374 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 463 by Representative Stefanski

Representative Stefanski presented House Bill No. 463, which authorizes the governing authority of the city of Crowley to levy a hotel occupancy tax.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 463 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 463 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 664 by Representative Duplessis

Representative Duplessis presented House Bill No. 664, which creates the Infrastructure and Economic Development District in the city of New Orleans.

Representative Huval offered amendments to authorize the district to levy a tax if the rate of the state sales tax is less than .45% and to limit the rate of the tax to the difference between .45% and the lower rate. Representative Huval offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to require that the imposition of a tax by the district be approved by the voters. Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Paul Rainwater, city of New Orleans, no address given, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (285) 281-8176, spoke in support of House Bill No. 664.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 664 with amendments, to which Representative Schamerhorn objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 664 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention. Representatives DuBuisson, Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Stagni, and Willard voted yea. Representative Schamerhorn voted nay. Representative Huval abstained.

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. 697 by Representative McCormick

Representative McCormick presented House Bill No. 697, which provides relative to the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Commission. He submitted a letter from three members of the Caddo Parish Commission in support of House Bill No. 697, labeled Exhibit #2 in the committee records.

Gary Krepak, Caddo Alliance for Freedom, 3245 Eastwood Drive, Shreveport, LA 71105, (318) 655-3217, spoke in support of House Bill No. 697.

Jake Brown, Caddo Alliance for Freedom, 1243 Pine Island Road, Shreveport, LA 71107, (318) 918-9459, spoke in support of House Bill No. 697.

Chris Kracman, Caddo Alliance for Freedom, 4530 Pine Kroll Drive, Shreveport, LA 71107, (318) 573-9547, spoke in support of House Bill No. 697.

Jessica Tullis, Caddo Alliance for Freedom, 5474 Primitive Baptist Church, Shreveport, LA 71107, (318) 617-8533, spoke in support of House Bill No. 697.

Representative Tammy T. Phelps, Louisiana House of Representatives District No. 3, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 697.

Representative Schamerhorn offered a motion to report House Bill No. 697 favorably, to which Representative Stagni objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 697 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives DuBuisson, Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, McKnight, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representatives Green, Lyons, Newell, Stagni, and Willard voted nay. Representative Huval abstained.

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

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 8 in support, and 3 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 203 by Representative Huval

Representative Huval presented House Bill No. 203, which provides relative to the re-creation of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Louisiana Lieutenant Governor William Nungesser, Capitol Annex Building, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7009, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 203.

Representative Huval offered a motion to report House Bill No. 203 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 203 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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. 335 by Representative Huval

Representative Huval presented House Bill No. 335, which authorizes the lieutenant governor and the secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to designate a person to serve in their stead on certain boards and commissions.

Louisiana Lieutenant Governor William Nungesser, Capitol Annex Building, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7009, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 335.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 335 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 335 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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. 406 by Representative Huval

Representative Huval presented House Bill No. 406, which grants the secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism the power to make personnel decisions.

Louisiana Lieutenant Governor William Nungesser, Capitol Annex Building, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7009, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 406.

Julia George Moore, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 406.

Representative Huval offered a motion to report House Bill No. 406 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 406 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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. 476 by Representative Huval

Representative Huval presented House Bill No. 476, which provides relative to the Louisiana Folklife Commission and the Louisiana Tourism Development Commission.

Representative Huval offered amendments that David Gauthier, staff analyst, explained would change the person to whom the Louisiana Tourism Development Commission submits nominees for the position of assistant secretary of the office of tourism from the governor to the lieutenant governor. Representative Huval offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Julia George Moore, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 476.

Representative Huval offered a motion to report House Bill No. 476 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 476 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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.

House Bill No. 679 by Representative Nelson

Representative Nelson presented House Bill No. 679, which provides relative to the sale and lease of immovable property by the secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Representative Nelson presented "RESOLUTION NO. 20-02" from the Mandeville city council in support of House Bill No. 679, which is included as Exhibit #3 in the committee records.

Louisiana Lieutenant Governor William Nungesser, Capitol Annex Building, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7009, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 679.

Julia George Moore, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 679.

Rachael P. Catalanoito, Canal & Trail Adventure, 2250 7th Street, Mandeville, LA 70471, (504) 415-2652, spoke and withdrew her comments.

Representative Newell offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 679. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 679 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 134 in support, and 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 213 by Representative Miguez

Representative Miguez presented House Bill No. 213, which provides relative to the Louisiana Military Hall of Fame and Museum.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 213 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 213 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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. 577 by Representative Goudeau

Representative Goudeau presented House Bill No. 577, which provides with respect to promotions within certain local police departments.

Chief Chad Leger, Scott Police Department, P.O. Box 810, Scott, LA 70583, (337) 233-3719, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 577.

Chief Brannon Decou, Broussard Police Department, 414 East Main Street, Broussard, LA 70518, (337) 278-0155, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 577.

Chief David Anderson, Carencro Police Department, 110 Centennial Drive, Carencro, LA 70520, (337) 230-7969, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 577.

Chief Rickey Boudreaux, Youngsville Police Department, 304 Fourth Street, Youngsville, LA 70592, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 577.

Darrell Basco, Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police, 1613 Jewel Street, Pineville, LA 71360, (318) 401-0421, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 577.

Joe Mapes, Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police, 731 Lakeside Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 268-8572, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 577.

Chris Stewart, Louisiana Law Enforcement Association, 830 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 938-1105, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 577.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 577 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 577 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 414 by Representative Thompson

Representative Thompson presented House Bill No. 414, which provides relative to the civil service status of employees of the Monroe Housing Authority.

Mary-Patricia Wray, Louisiana Housing Council, 711 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 414.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 414 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 414 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 376 by Representative Marcelle

On behalf of Representative Marcelle, Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 376, which provides relative to the qualifications of the members of the municipal fire and police civil service board in the city of Baton Rouge.

Shane Spillman, Baton Rouge Fire Fighters, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, (225) 315-9521, spoke in support of House Bill No. 376.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 376 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 376 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 443 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 443, which provides relative to the board of commissioners of the Lakeshore Crime Prevention District.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 443 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 443 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 849 by Representative Charles Owen

Representative Charles Owen presented House Bill No. 849, which provides relative to the collection of hotel occupancy taxes levied by the Beauregard Tourist Commission.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 849 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 849 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 640 by Representative Charles Owen

Representative Charles Owen presented House Bill No. 640, which provides with respect to the salary of waterworks commissioners.

Representative Schamerhorn offered a motion to report House Bill No. 640 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 640 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 638 by Representative Landry

Representative Landry presented House Bill No. 638, which provides relative to maximum penalties imposed for the violation of parish and municipal ordinances.

Vice Chairman Stagni in the chair.

Representative Willard offered amendments explained by Tina Righteous, committee attorney, to change the maximum penalty that may be imposed for the violation of any parish or municipal ordinance from a fine of \$500 to \$950 and add exceptions in cases in which a higher maximum penalty is otherwise authorized by law and to retain present law regarding higher penalties for certain violations. Representative Willard offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Allen Johnson, Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association, 1418 Chartres, New Orleans, LA 70116, (985) 969-2916, spoke in support of House Bill No. 638.

Chairman Huval in the chair.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 7007 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-2835, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 638.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 638 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 638 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 151 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 151, which provides relative to the use of a petty cash account.

Representative Huval offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 151. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 151 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Huval announced that House Bill No. 462 by Representative Hughes, which provides relative to the New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority Economic Growth and Development District, was voluntarily deferred by the author.

Chairman Huval announced that House Bill No. 671 by Representative Stefanski, which provides relative to the levy of hotel occupancy taxes for tourism purposes, was voluntarily deferred by the author.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Mike Huval
House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Date adopted: