

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Second Extraordinary Session
September 29, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman
Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
Representative Ryan Joseph Bourriaque
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Jason Hughes
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Neil Riser
Representative John M. Stefanski, vice chairman
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Matthew Willard
Representative Mark Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Tammy T. Phelps

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brittany Lea, committee administrative assistant
Alison Pryor, senior attorney
Catherine Zeringue, attorney

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 5 by Representative Deshotel**

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 5, which establishes an income or corporation franchise tax credit for certain broadband coverage providers.

Mr. Brandon Frey, Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC), P.O. Box 91154, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 342-5163, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 5.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 5 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 5 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 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: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 6 by Representative DeVillier

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 6, which restricts the allocation of cash line of credit capacity for certain projects and provides for the recommendation of projects for lines of credit.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 6. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 6 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Hughes, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright voted yeas.

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

House Bill No. 7 by Representative DeVillier

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 7, which provides relative to the capital outlay process and certain reporting requirements.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 7. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 7 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Hughes, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright voted yea.

House Bill No. 8 by Representative DeVillier

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 8, which provides with respect to exempt severance tax on oil produced from stripper wells.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 8. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 8 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Hughes, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 29 by Representative DeVillier

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 29, which suspends severance taxes on production from certain oil wells.

Mr. Mike Moncla, interim president, Louisiana Oil and Gas Association, 1331 Lakeridge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 388-9525, spoke in support of House Bill No. 29.

Representative Stefanski in the chair

Mr. Arthur Price, Badger Energy, 3861 Ambassador Caffery Parkway, Suite 400, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 233-9200, spoke in support of House Bill No. 29.

Representative Bishop in the chair

Mr. Tyler Gray, president and general counsel, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (LMOGA), 730 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 29.

Mr. Major Thibaut, Pointe Coupee Parish president, 160 East Main Street, New Roads, LA 70760, (225) 718-1348, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 29.

Mr. Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 29.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 29 favorably. After further discussion, Representative Beaulieu withdrew his motion. No vote was taken.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 29. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 29 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Hughes, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Stefanski, White, Willard, 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

COMMITTEE ROOM 3 TO BE USED FOR OVERFLOW

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Bishop welcomed newly-elected House Ways and Means committee member, Representative Joseph Orgeron, District 54, 13259 East Main Street, Larose, LA 70373, (985) 693-9000.

Persons who do not feel comfortable giving testimony in person at this time may submit a prepared statement in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee:

A. Any interested person or any committee member may file with the committee a prepared statement concerning a specific instrument or matter under consideration by the committee or concerning any matter within the committee's scope of authority, and the committee records shall reflect receipt of such statement and the date and time thereof.

B. Any person who files a prepared statement which contains data or statistical information shall include in such prepared statement sufficient information to identify the source of the data or statistical information. For the purposes of this Paragraph, the term "source" shall mean a publication, website, person, or other source from which the data or statistical information contained in the prepared statement was obtained by the person or persons who prepared the statement.

NOTE: Statements emailed to leab@legis.la.gov and received prior to 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, will be distributed to the committee members prior to the meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Hughes, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Stuart J. Bishop
House Committee on Ways and Means