

House Committee on Commerce

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
May 10, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Paula P. Davis, chairwoman of the House Committee on Commerce, called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Paula P. Davis, chairwoman
Representative Royce Duplessis
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Brett F. Geymann
Representative Jonathan Goudeau, I
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Edmond Jordan
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Markham Scott McKnight
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Polly Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kenny R. Cox
Representative Stephanie Hilferty, vice chairwoman
Representative Paul Hollis

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Halie Guidry, legislative analyst
Charlotte Cravins, attorney
Allie King, committee administrative assistant
Nevonda S. Reed, division director
Felicie Jackson, executive assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 by Representative Wright**

Representative Wright presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 64, which continues the Joint Subcommittee on International Trade to study how to best capitalize on Louisiana's international trade potential.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Fontenot, Geymann, Goudeau, Jordan, McCormick, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

House Bill No. 258 by Representative Edmonston

Representative Edmonston presented House Bill No. 258, which provides relative to renewal of real estate licenses and timeshare registrations.

Mr. Bruce Unangst, Louisiana Real Estate Commission, 9071 Interline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, 225-925-4501, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 258.

Representative Davis offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Change a provision stating that the license of an individual real estate broker or salesperson shall not have his license renewed unless the broker or salesperson provides proof of completion of 12 hours of continuing education pertaining to certain matters to require the broker or salesperson to furnish proof of 12 hours of continuing education but remove portion stating that the license shall not be renewed.
3. Change continuing education requirement pertaining to the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to add that the continuing education pertain to the rules and programs promulgated or administered by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

4. Prohibit the La. Real Estate Commission from allowing a licensee to complete less than 12 hours of continuing education to satisfy the continuing education requirements.
5. Add a provisions regarding inactive license status that makes inactive license status applicable only to licenses that are not expired and removes the provision which outlines the process for transferring an expired license to inactive status.
6. Remove reference to delinquent renewal of an expired license and makes delinquent renewal applicable only to active licenses.
7. Add that the process for delinquent renewal of a license does not require the former licensee to complete the 90 hours of real estate coursework that is required for initial licensure.
8. Add a grace period for licensees applying for delinquent renewal of a license to allow a licensee who is applying for delinquent renewal to apply without having to reapply as an initial applicant from Jan. 1, 2023, through Jan. 31, 2023, and provides that this grace period is effective from April 1, 2022, through Feb. 1, 2023.

Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Fontenot, Goudeau, Jordan, McCormick, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 258 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 258 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Fontenot, Goudeau, Jordan, McCormick, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 66 by Representative Carrier

Representative Davis announced that action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 66, which provides relative to the burial of certain persons, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 518 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Davis announced that action on House Bill No. 518, which provides relative to digital application distribution platforms, was voluntarily deferred.

The committee stood at ease at 9:53 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:03 a.m.

House Bill No. 282 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 282, which provides relative to discrimination in sale or rental of housing and other prohibited practices.

Maxwell Ciardullo, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center, 1340 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 282.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to voluntarily defer House Bill No. 282.

Mr. Elliot Wade, Louisiana Trans Advocates, 211 Theo St., Carencro, LA 70520, 337-258-9214, spoke in support of House Bill No. 282.

Representative Jordan offered a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 282 favorably, to which Representative Fontenot objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Duplessis, Green, Jordan, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Davis, Fontenot, McCormick, McKnight, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted nay.

The original motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 282 was considered, to which Representative Green objected. The author agreed to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 282, and Representative Green withdrew his objection. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 282 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fontenot, Green, Jordan, McCormick, McKnight, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 2 in opposition. 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: 16 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fontenot, Green, Jordan, McCormick, McKnight, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairwoman Paula P. Davis
House Committee on Commerce

Date adopted: