

House Committee on Commerce

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 25, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Paula P. Davis, chairman of the House Committee on Commerce, called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Paula P. Davis, chairman
Representative Royce Duplessis
Representative Adrian Fisher
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Jonathan Goudeau, I
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Stephanie Hilferty, vice chairman
Representative Paul Hollis
Representative Edmond Jordan
Representative Scott McKnight
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Thomas A. Pressly
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Polly Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kenny R. Cox

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charlotte Cravins, attorney
Halie Guidry, attorney
Felicie Jackson, executive assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed-Dobard, division director
Victoria Grant, committee clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Danny Leming, assistant sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 342 by Representative Hodges**

Representative Davis announced that action on House Bill No. 342, which provides relative to financial institutions, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 565 by Representative Bacala

Representative Davis announced that action on House Bill No. 565, which provides relative to duties of the fire marshal, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 806 by Representative Freeman

Representative Davis announced that action on House Bill No. 806, which provides relative to solar and battery storage, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 971 by Representative Romero

Representative Davis announced that action on House Bill No. 971, which provides relative to home improvement contracting, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 1048 by Representative McKnight

Representative Davis announced that action on House Bill No. 1048, which provides relative to economic development, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 1015 by Representative Schexnayder

Representative Schexnayder presented House Bill No. 1015, which provides relative to financial incentives for events held in Louisiana.

Representative Davis offered a technical amendment. Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 13

yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hollis, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Davis offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove Louisiana Economic Development (LED) from involvement with the program, including removal of references to LED throughout proposed law, and require the lieutenant governor to provide an economic analysis to the state treasurer and include certain criteria in the analysis.
- (2) Require the treasurer to transfer 50% of the incremental increase in sales and use and excise tax receipts to be paid from the general fund to the program fund established in proposed law immediately upon receiving the economic analysis.
- (3) Require the lieutenant governor to submit an annual report by September 1st of each year which includes certain information regarding the program and to provide such report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Budget.
- (4) Make nonprofit corporations eligible for funding through the program.
- (5) Require applications for funding be submitted by 180 days prior to the event.
- (6) Require the lieutenant governor to promulgate rules for administration of the program and use of the emergency rulemaking process to promulgate initial rules.
- (7) Make technical changes.

Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hollis, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1015 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1015 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hollis, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 25 by Representative Orgeron

Representative Orgeron presented House Resolution No. 25, which urges and requests the Louisiana Public Service Commission to investigate the benefits, feasibility, costs, and pathways to achieving a demonstrable offshore wind energy pilot project by 2026.

Representative Davis offered amendments to:

- (1) Request the La. Public Service Commission to investigate costs in addition to the factors provided for in proposed law.
- (2) Change the stated goal from achieving 5-gigawatts of offshore wind energy development to achieving a demonstrable offshore wind energy pilot project.
- (3) Change the projected date of completion from 2035 to 2026.
- (4) Make technical changes.

Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 25 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 25 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, Tarver, and Thomas 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.

Statements submitted in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 3 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 381 by Senator Ward

Senator Ward presented Senate Bill No. 381, which creates the "Louisiana Credit Access Loan Act".

Representative Davis offered a technical amendment. Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Pressly offered an amendment to remove attorney fees from the available remedies provided in proposed law. Representative Pressly offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Green, Hollis, McKnight, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Alexis Anderson, PREACH, 248 Steele Blvd., #2, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 244-9828, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 381.

Troy McCullen, 251 Florida St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 931-3353, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 381.

Davante Lewis, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Hwy., Ste. 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, no phone number provided, davante@labudget.org, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 381.

Jessica Sharon, Louisiana Credit Unions/Pelican State Federal Credit Union, 10473 Starlight Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 772-3021, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 381.

Ken Pickering, Louisiana Finance Association, 731 Lakeland Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 884-0718, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 381.

Stan Dameron, Office of Financial Institutions, 8660 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 705-5190, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 381.

Representative Pressly offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 381 with amendments, to which Representative Duplessis objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 381 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Davis, Fontenot, Goudeau, Green, Hollis, McKnight, Pressly, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Duplessis, Fisher, and Jordan voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 23 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 11 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1040 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 1040, which provides relative to payment processing services.

Representative Davis offered a technical amendment. Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Green, Hollis, McKnight, Pressly, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Davis offered an amendment to exempt certain entities from the application of the unfair trade practice law and provide that the exempted entities are subject to the enforcement power of the commissioner of the office of financial institutions provided in present law. Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendments was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Green, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Davis offered an amendment which provides that proposed law does not apply to an entity that provides payment-processing services for unauthorized or illegal acts. Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Pressly offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1040 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1040 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas 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. 665 by Representative Willard

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 665 from the April 18, 2022, meeting. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 665.

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 665, which provides relative to the Louisiana Equal Housing Opportunity Act.

Representative Pressly offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Pressly offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 665 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 665 was reported by substitute by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 19 in support and 11 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 11 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records electronically.

House Bill No. 639 by Representative Pressly

Representative Pressly presented House Bill No. 639, which provides relative to occupational licensing for workers with criminal histories.

Representative Davis offered a technical amendment. Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Pressly offered amendments to:

- (1) Require an individual making a request pursuant to proposed law to include in the request any identifying information required by the licensing entity.
- (2) Extend the time period by which the board is required to inform an individual of the board's decision from 30 days to 45 days.
- (3) Allow an individual to seek a criminal background check at the time of a pre-application eligibility determination.

Representative Pressly offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Raheem J. Williams, The Pelican Institute for Public Policy, 6805 Veterans Blvd., Apt # 56, Metairie, LA 70003, (904) 343-1597, spoke in support of House Bill No. 639.

Alan Krouse, Louisiana Engineer Society, 7038 Ernest Floyd Rd., Gonzales, LA 70737, (225) 647-4998, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 639.

Scott Landry, Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board, 855 United Plaza Blvd., Ste. 103, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-4300, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 639.

Representative Pressly offered a motion to report House Bill No. 639 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 639 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Green, Hilferty, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 20 in support, 3 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 597 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 597, which provides relative to occupational licensing.

Representative Newell offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Newell offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, Hollis, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Daltonio Elaire, 1124 E. Vermillion St., Lafayette, LA 70501, (337) 793-5011, spoke in support of House Bill No. 597.

Raheem J. Williams, The Pelican Institute for Public Policy, 6805 Veterans Blvd., Apt # 56, Metairie, LA 70003, (904) 343-1597, spoke in support of House Bill No. 597.

Representative Pressly offered amendments to make an exception that the provisions of the Chapter shall not apply to administrative rules promulgated pursuant to the Human Life Protection Act. Representative Pressly offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, Hollis, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 597 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 597 was reported by substitute by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, Hollis, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 303 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 303, 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., Ste. 710, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 708-8172, spoke in support of House Bill No. 303.

Joey Walker, 1477 Louisiana Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115, (504) 610-5637, spoke in support of House Bill No. 303.

Evan Bergeron, 4891 Tchoupitoulas St., New Orleans, LA 70115, (985) 518-3753, spoke in support of House Bill No. 303.

SarahJane Guidry, Forum for Equality, 4519 South Claiborne Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 302-6006, spoke in support of House Bill No. 303.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 303 favorably. Representative McKnight offered a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 303, to which Representative Green objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Davis, Fontenot, Goudeau, McKnight, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Duplessis, Fisher, Green, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, Newell, and St. Blanc voted nay.

The original motion to report House Bill No. 303 favorably was considered. Without objection, House Bill No. 303 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, 10 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 5 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 555 by Representative Charles Owen

Representative Charles Owen presented House Bill No. 555, which provides relative to occupational licenses.

Representative Davis offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove provisions of proposed law that require a board to provide licensure to an applicant based on the person holding an out-of-state license.
- (2) Remove provisions of proposed law that require a board to provide licensure to an applicant based on the person's prior work experience.
- (3) Remove provisions of proposed law that require a board to provide licensure to an applicant based on the person's private certification and work experience.
- (4) Remove provisions of proposed law relative to licensure by the La. State Board of Medical Examiners.
- (5) Remove provisions of proposed law relative to a jurisprudential examination.
- (6) Remove provisions of proposed law requiring a written decision and providing for an appeal from such a decision.
- (7) Remove provisions of proposed law relative to application of proposed law.
- (8) Remove provisions of proposed law requiring a board to adopt rules.
- (9) Add provisions of proposed law requiring boards to publish information relative to the issuance and denial of licenses and renewals.
- (10) Require the board to update the published information annually.
- (11) Make technical changes.

Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yeas.

Representative Hollis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 555 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 555 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Duplessis, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, 4 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Paula P. Davis
House Committee on Commerce

Date adopted: