

House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 7, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter, chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Raymond J. Crews
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Lawrence "Larry" Frieman
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Neil Riser, vice chairman
Representative Laurie Schlegel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kenny R. Cox
Representative Valarie Hodges

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jurissa McGuire, attorney
Johnna Johnson, committee administrative assistant
Nevonda S. Reed, division director

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Victoria Grant, committee clerk
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 241 by Representative Riser

Representative Carpenter announced that action on House Bill No. 241, which provides relative to the Fresh Start Proper Worker Classification Initiative, was voluntarily deferred.

Representative Riser in the chair.

House Bill No. 119 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Bill No. 119, which re-creates the Louisiana Workforce Commission and re-authorizes the Incumbent Worker Training Program.

Ava D. Cates, Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), 1001 N. 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1216, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 119.

Representative Riser offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 119 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 119 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Carpenter in the chair.

House Bill No. 192 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 192, which provides for the unemployment compensation procedure to be applied by the administrator for the 2023 calendar year.

Representative Frieman offered a motion to report House Bill No. 192 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 192 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel 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.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 5, which suspends certain provisions of law relative to unemployment compensation taxes and benefits.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 5 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 5 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 487 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 487, which requires a contractor for a state construction project to designate no less than two percent of man-hours in any apprenticeable occupation to registered apprentices.

Ava D. Cates, LWC, 1001 N. 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3001, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 487.

Chris Broadwater, Louisiana Community & Technical College System, 265 S. Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (985) 634-3283, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 487.

Louis Reine, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), 429 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 383-5741, spoke in support of House Bill No. 487.

Ken Naquin, Louisiana Associated General Contractors (LAGC), 666 North Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 939-1627, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 487.

Carson DeLerue, Associated Builders and Contractors, 19251 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 739- 8297, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 487.

Derrel Cohoon, LAGC, 714 N. 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 921-9233, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 487.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 487 favorably, to which Representative Amedee objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Larvadain, Phelps, and Riser voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Frieman, Horton, and Schlegel voted nay.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 487. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 487 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 622 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 622, which provides relative to the unemployment insurance integrity program.

Ericka Zucker, Workplace Justice Project, Loyola University College of Law Broadway Building, 540 Broadway Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 861-5746, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 622.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 622 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 622 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Frieman, Larvadain, Robert Owen, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 506 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 506, which provides relative to the unemployment compensation weekly benefit amount.

Ericka Zucker, Workplace Justice Project, Loyola University College of Law Broadway Building, 540 Broadway Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 861-5746, spoke in support of House Bill No. 506.

Jim Patterson, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry (LABI), 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 928-5388, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 506.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 506 favorably, to which Representative Frieman objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Larvadain, Phelps, and Schlegel voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, and Robert Owen voted nay.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 506. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 506 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, 3 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 308 by Representative Jefferson

Representative Jefferson presented House Bill No. 308, which provides relative to the unemployment compensation weekly benefit amount.

Julie Schwarm Harris, 1208 Pine Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, no phone number provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 308.

Jim Patterson, LABI, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 928-5388, spoke in support of House Bill No. 308

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 308 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 308 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 412 by Representative Goudeau

Representative Goudeau presented House Bill No. 412, which provides relative to the verification of attendance at employment interviews.

Ava D. Cates, LWC, 1001 N. 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3001, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 412.

Ericka Zucker, Workplace Justice Project, Loyola University College of Law Broadway Building, 540 Broadway Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 861-5746, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 412.

Representative Carpenter offered amendments to:

1. Allow the employer to submit a verification form as proof of a claimant's failure to appear at an interview.
2. Add an additional requirement for the claimant's telephone number or email address on the interview verification form.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 412 with amendments, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 412 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Robert Owen, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Larvadain, and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, 5 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The minutes from the 2021 Regular Session meetings held on April 29th, May 6th, May 13th, and June 3rd were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Frieman offered a motion to adopt. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Barbara W. Carpenter
House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Date adopted: