

House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
March 29, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Mark Wright, chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Mark Wright, chairman
Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass, vice chairman
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Joseph A. Marino, III
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen
Representative Vincent J. Pierre
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Larry Selders

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Cedric B. Glover
Representative Ed Larvadain, III

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

LeeAnne Sharlow, attorney
Carlesia Bibbins, attorney
Brandy Phillips, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 512 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 512, which provides relative to a commercial motor vehicle inspection.

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Add a provision that exempts commercial vehicles from the required one-or two-year certificates of inspection.

Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Edmonston, Firment, Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Representative Pierre offered a motion to report House Bill No. 512 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 512 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Wright abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 4 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 658 by Representative Stagni

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 658, which modifies the membership of the Louisiana Advisory Council on Driver Education.

Representative Wright offered an amendment to change the membership from one representative of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan appointed by the Regional Traffic Safety Coalition to one representative of the La. Highway Safety Commission appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the executive director of the La. Highway Safety Commission.

Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Gadberry, Horton, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Remove a provision that required the council to be composed of two non-voting ex officio members appointed by the commissioner of the office of motor vehicles.
3. Expand the number of voting members from seven to 13.

Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Gadberry, Horton, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Mr. Cary Koch, Driving School Association of Louisiana, 504 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 907-5880, spoke in support of House Bill No. 658.

Ms. Kelly Sittig, office of motor vehicles, 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 279-0886, spoke for information only.

Ms. Judy Bell, Driving Done Right LLC, 120 Jimmie Davis Boulevard, Jonesboro, LA 71251, (318) 299-0350, spoke in support of House Bill No. 658.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 658 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 658 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea. Representative Wright abstained.

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. 704 by Representative Newell

Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 704, which provides relative to the breast cancer awareness special prestige license plate.

Representative Selders offered a motion to report House Bill No. 704 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 704 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea. Representative Wright abstained.

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 Bill No. 710 by Representative Stefanski

Representative Stefanski presented House Bill No. 710, which provides relative to the provisions of construction management at risk (CMAR).

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Add a provision that specifies if the public entity is unable to negotiate a contract with the highest ranked CMAR proposer, the public entity may award the contract to the next highest ranked CMAR proposer.
3. Remove a provision that specified if the construction management at risk winner of the proposer bid is found to be nonresponsive, the contract must be awarded to the next highest scored and ranked CMAR proposer.

Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Mr. Derrell Cohoon, LA Associated General Contractors, 717 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 921-9233, spoke in support of House Bill No. 710.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 710 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 710 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea. Representative Wright abstained.

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. 130 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 130, which provides relative to motor vehicle crash reports.

Representative Pierre offered a motion to report House Bill No. 130 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 130 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea. Representative Wright abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 234 by Representative Schlegel

Representative Schlegel presented House Bill No. 234, which prohibits smoking or vaping marijuana in motor vehicles.

Representative Marino offered an amendment to:

1. Remove a provision that required court cost be assessed in addition to the authorized fine.

Representative Marino offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea. Representative Wright abstained.

Ms. Loren M. Lampert, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 343-0171 spoke in support of House Bill No. 234.

Captain Robert Burns, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, no phone number provided, spoke for information only.

Mr. Tony Landry, Louisiana Veterans for Medical Cannabis, 213 Case Lane, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 412-2836, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 234 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 234 with amendments, to which Representative Pierre objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 234 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives

Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea. Representatives Brass, Marino, and Pierre voted nay. Representative Wright abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 301 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 301, which provides relative to a driver's license duplicate designation.

Ms. Paige Joyner, office of motor vehicles, 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 229-6803, spoke for information only.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 301 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 301 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea. Representative Wright abstained.

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. 769 by Representative Wright

Representative Brass in the chair.

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 769, which provides relative to ignition interlock devices and maintenance services.

Representative Brass offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Change the required time period for the ignition interlock to remain installed and operative for a first offense from the first 12-month period of the suspension to the entire period of the suspension.
3. Change the required time period for the ignition interlock to remain installed and operative for a second offense from the first three years of the four-year period of the suspension to the entire four-year period of suspension.

Representative Brass offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Ms. Mary Patricia Wray, MADD, 2360 Tulip Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 395-9661, spoke in support of House Bill No. 769 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Sgt. Greg J. Marchand, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (504) 650-5303, spoke for information only.

Ms. Kelly Sittig, office of motor vehicles, 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 279-0886, spoke for information only.

Ms. Rachel Smith, LDAA, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 343-0171, spoke for information only.

Ms. Sunny House, MADD, 2644 South Sherwood Forest, Suite 224, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 772-1123, spoke in support of House Bill No. 769.

Ms. Valerie McClung Sanders, MADD, 195 Longmire Lane, Woodville, MS 39669, (601) 870-3383, spoke in support of House Bill No. 769.

Ms. Paula Zachary, MADD, 29955 West Street, Apt. B7, Albany, LA 70711, (985) 363-0047, spoke in support of House Bill No. 769.

Mr. Gary Price, MADD, P.O. Box 697, Loreauville, LA 70552, (337) 352-1662, spoke in support of House Bill No. 769.

Ms. Sarah Whittington, Justice & Accountability Center of Louisiana, 4035 Washington Avenue, Suite 203, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 769.

Ms. Hallye Braud, LACDL, 9270 Siegen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (504) 858-6694, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 769.

Mr. Checo Yancy, VOTE, 251 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 270-5245, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 769.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 769 with amendments with recommendation that it be recommitted to the House Committee on Criminal Justice. Without objection, House Bill No. 769 was reported with amendments with recommendation that it be

recommitted to the House Committee on Criminal Justice by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 1 in opposition, and 4 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: 1 in support and 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 867 by Representative Moore

Representative Moore presented House Bill No. 867, which provides relative to the designation of highway safety corridors by the Department of Transportation and Development.

Representative Moore offered a technical amendment. Representative Moore offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Chairman Wright in the chair.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 867 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 867 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea. Representative Wright abstained.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Horton offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg,

Gadberry, Horton, Marino, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Mark Wright
House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Date adopted: