

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 23, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman
Representative Ryan Bourriaque
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Laurie Schlegel
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Matthew Willard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV, vice chairman
Representative Tanner D. Magee

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brittany Lea, committee administrative assistant
Alison Pryor, senior attorney

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 372 by Representative Romero**

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 372, which provides for the assessment of green house gas emissions reduction facilities for purposes of ad valorem property taxes.

Mr. Jason DeCuir, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas (LMOGA), 730 North Boulevard, Beauregard Town, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 317-3345, spoke in support of House Bill No. 372.

Mr. Brian Eddington, general counsel, Louisiana Assessors' Association, 3060 Valley Creek Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 924-4066, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 372.

Ms. Ashley Cain, director of public and government affairs, Louisiana Assessors' Association, 730 North Boulevard, Beauregard Town, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3205, spoke in support of House Bill No. 372.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 372. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 372 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Bourriaque, Butler, Farnum, Landry, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schlegel, White, and Willard 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.

Senate Bill No. 401 by Senator McMath

Senator McMath presented Senate Bill No. 401, which authorizes governing authorities to adopt ordinances to increase certain fees in the parishes of St. Tammany and Washington.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 401 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 401 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Bourriaque, Butler, Farnum, Landry, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, Riser, Schlegel, White, and Willard voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 104 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 104, which urges and requests the Dept. of Revenue to study and report on the feasibility of accepting virtual currency as a form of payment of taxes, licenses, fees, penalties, and interest due to the state.

Representative Bourriaque in the chair.

Representative Bourriaque offered technical amendments. Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Farnum, Landry, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, Riser, Schlegel, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 104 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 104 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Farnum, Landry, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, Riser, Schlegel, White, and Willard voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 76 by Senator Fields

On behalf of Senator Fields, Dr. Jim Henderson, president, University of Louisiana System, 1201 North 3rd Street, Suite 7-300, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (318) 426-7104, presented Senate Bill No. 76, which provides that certain graduate students shall be exempt from mandatory student fees.

Dr. Louis Reine, president, Louisiana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), 429 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 241-9725, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 76.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 76 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 76 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Landry, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schlegel, White, and Willard 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.

Senate Bill No. 466 by Senator Smith

Senator Smith presented Senate Bill No. 466, which provides for a salary increase for assessors.

Chairman Bishop in the chair.

Mr. Lucien Gauff, III, assessor, Louisiana Assessors' Association, 1811 West Airline Highway, LaPlace, LA 70068, (504) 610-8487, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 466.

Mr. James J. Petitjean, Acadia Parish assessor, P.O. Box 1329, Crowley, LA 70527, (337) 581-4130, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 466.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 466, to which Representative Riser objected. Representative Riser offered a substitute motion to report Senate Bill No. 466 favorably, to which Representative Bishop objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed by a vote of 7 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Bryant, LaCombe, Orgeron, Phelps, Riser, White, and Willard voted yea. Representatives Bishop, Bourriaque, Butler, Farnum, Landry, McMahan, Mincey, and Schlegel voted nay.

Senator Gary Smith stated that he would voluntarily defer Senate Bill No. 466.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bishop announced that the 2021-2022 tax exemption budget books published by the Louisiana Department of Revenue had been placed at each members' seat.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Landry, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, Riser, Schlegel, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Stuart J. Bishop
House Committee on Ways and Means