

House Committee on Commerce

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
April 17, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Paula P. Davis, chairman of the House Committee on Commerce, called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Paula P. Davis, chairman
Representative Chad Brown
Representative Kenny R. Cox
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Jonathan Goudeau, I
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Stephanie Hilferty, vice chairman
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 Adrian Fisher
Representative Paul Hollis
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Victoria Kelley, legislative analyst
Kathryn Vigrass, legislative analyst
Sharell Steven, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed, division director
Stephan Louis, sergeant at arms
Clarence Russ, chief sergeant at arms
Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 564 by Representative Schexnayder**

On behalf of Representative Schexnayder, Representative Davis presented House Bill No. 564, which provides relative to racehorse wagering.

Edwin J. Fenasai, Louisiana Horsemen, 1535 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 945-1555, spoke in support of House Bill No. 564.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 564 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 564 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hilferty, Jordan, 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. 199 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 199, which provides relative to the State Licensing Board for Contractors.

Lee Mallett, Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors (LSLBC), 600 North St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (337) 515-2154, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 199.

Brad Hassent, LSLBC, 600 North St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 346-6348, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 199.

Representative Davis offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes
- (2) Lower the licensing threshold for residential structures from \$75,000 to \$10,000.
- (3) Lower the threshold for licensure of a residential contractor from a cost that exceeds \$75,000 to a cost that equals or exceeds \$10,000.
- (4) Add a licensure exemption for any person performing as a subcontractor who is overseen by a licensed residential contractor, not including electrical, mechanical, plumbing, mold, asbestos, or hazardous material scopes of work.
- (5) Add that a contractor shall be licensed if the contractor works for an owner of property and change home improvement contractor exemptions to residential contractor exemptions for landscaping, painting, or wall covering.
- (6) Change home improvement contractor and home improvement contracting to residential contractor and residential contracting with respect to certain prohibited acts for property insurance.
- (7) Lower licensure threshold for residential construction to an amount of \$10,000 or more.
- (8) Add an effective date.

Representative Hilferty is in the chair.

Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Fontenot objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, McKnight, Pressly, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Cox, Fontenot, Jordan, Newell, and Thomas voted nay.

Representative Fontenot offered amendments to:

- (1) Add that any individual who is domiciled in this state and maintained a home improvement contractor's registration certificate for at least three years prior to the effective date will be exempt for the residential contractor trade examination and issued a residential contractor's license if the individual has maintained compliance and has no violations with the board.
- (2) Make technical changes.

Representative Fontenot 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, Brown, Cox, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hilferty, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Davis in Chair

Representative Davis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 199 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 199 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Goudeau, Hilferty, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards that were submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 481 by Representative Pressly

Representative Pressly presented House Bill No. 481, which provides relative to certain unauthorized acts of motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, distributor branches, and converters.

Will Green, Louisiana Automobile Dealers Association, 7526 Picardy Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 769-5500, spoke in support of House Bill No. 481.

Gina Goings, Alliance for Automotive Innovation, 1445 Lakeridge Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 326-1244, spoke for information only for House Bill No. 481.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 481 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 481 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Fontenot, Goudeau, Jordan, 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 committee records.

House Bill No. 385 by Representative DeVillier

On behalf of Representative DeVillier, Steve Duke, Louisiana Manufactured Housing Association, 4847 Revere Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 325-6960, presented House Bill No. 385, which provides relative to manufactured housing.

Representative Davis offered amendments to 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, Brown, Cox, Fontenot, Goudeau, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Donnie Brewer, 1109 Long Key Cir., Benton, LA 71006, (318) 741-1222, spoke in support of House Bill No. 385.

Representative Thomas in chair.

Representative Newell offered amendments to provide that the commission has the power to conduct meetings by remote access. Representative Newell 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, Brown, Goudeau, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 385 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 385 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Goudeau, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 4 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 384 by Representative McFarland

On behalf of Representative McFarland, Representative Davis presented House Bill No. 384, which provides relative to the Louisiana Renewable Energy Development Act.

Caleb Holmes, Sierra Club Delta Chapter, 2455 Weldwood Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (318) 638-9500, spoke in support of House Bill No. 384.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 384 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 384 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Cox, Fontenot, Goudeau, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative McKnight offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Cox, Fontenot, Goudeau, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Paula P. Davis
House Committee on Commerce

Date adopted: