

## House Committee on Commerce

Minutes of Meeting  
2023 Regular Session  
May 8, 2023

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Paula P. Davis, chairman of the House Committee on Commerce, called the meeting to order at 9:36 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 Jonathan Goudeau, I  
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.  
Representative Stephanie Hilferty, vice chairman  
Representative Edmond Jordan  
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur  
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 Bryan Fontenot  
Representative Paul Hollis

#### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms  
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms  
Randall Ike, committee clerk  
Nevonda Reed, division director

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 615 by Representative Hodges**

Representative Davis announced that action on House Bill No. 615, which assesses fees on remittances of money to foreign countries and dedicates fee proceeds to salary increases for teachers and to costs of English as a second language programs in public schools, was voluntarily deferred.

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 59 by Representative Beaulieu**

Representative Beaulieu presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 59, which requests the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to withdraw its proposed rule with respect to climate-related disclosures for investors.

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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Goudeau, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

David Boneno, Louisiana Bankers Association (LBA), 5555 Bankers Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 214-4836, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 59.

Joe Gendron, LBA, 5555 Bankers Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 214-4837, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 59.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 59 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 59 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: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 603 by Representative Deshotel**

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 603, which provides relative to Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities.

Representative Davis offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Goudeau, Jordan, LaFleur, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

*Representative Thomas in the chair.*

Thomas Tyler, Connect Louisiana, 5768 Hyacinth Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 315-8514, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 603.

Lauren Chauvin, Louisiana Internet and Television, 763 North St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (337) 501-8620, spoke in support of House Bill No. 603.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 603 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 603 was reported by substitute by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Goudeau, Hilferty, Jordan, LaFleur, 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. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in opposition. A copy of the statement is included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 602 by Representative Deshotel**

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 602, which provides relative to broadband.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 602, which provides relative to broadband. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 602 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Goudeau, Hilferty, Jordan, LeFleur, 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, 2 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 546 by Representative Pressly**

Representative Pressly presented House Bill No. 546, which provides relative to professional engineers.

Representative Pressly offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 546, which provides relative to professional engineers. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 546 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Goudeau, Hilferty, Jordan, LeFleur, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 1 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 333 by Representative Pressly**

Representative Pressly presented House Bill No. 333, which provides relative to exemptions to the licensing of architects.

Kathleen Gordon, American Institute Architects Louisiana (AIA), 521 America St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-5579, spoke in support of House Bill No. 333.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 333, which provides relative to exemptions to the licensing of architects. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 333 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Hilferty, Jordan, LeFleur, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

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

**House Bill No. 606 by Representative Jordan**

Representative Jordan presented House Bill No. 606, which provides relative to safe housing.

Representative Thomas offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Thomas offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Hilferty, Jordan, LeFleur, McKnight, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Jordan offered amendments to:

- (1) Replace proposed law and state that a lessee may choose to terminate his lease if, after the execution of a lease, two or more violent crimes or drug offenses with official police reports occur one-tenth of a mile radius of the property.
- (2) Make technical changes.

Representative Jordan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Hilferty, Jordan, LeFleur, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Cathy Toliver, 2325 N. Magnolia Dr., Baker, LA 70714, (225) 650-1685, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 606.

Councilman Cleve Dunn Jr., East Baton Rouge Parish Council, 222 St. Louis St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 389-5165, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 606.

*Representative Hilferty in the chair.*

Timberlynn Platenburg, Baton Rouge Apartment Association (BRAA), 17444 Cuaterloo Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (281) 793-7063, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 606.

Jim Rather, Apartment Association of Louisiana, 3017 Howard Ave., Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 481-4118, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 606.

Susan Rouse, 4433 Conlin St., Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 415-3273, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 606.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 606 with amendments, to which Representative Pressly made a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 606. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 606 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Goudeau, Hilferty, Jordan, LaFleur, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 36 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

***Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 606 on May 9, 2023. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 606.***

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 15 by Representative Wright**

Representative Wright presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 15, which expresses recognition and encouragement of the economic ties and friendship between the state of Louisiana and the Republic of China.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 15 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 15 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Goudeau, Hilferty, LaFleur, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

**House Bill No. 180 by Representative Willard**

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 180, which provides relative to housing opportunities.

Representative Hilferty offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Hilferty 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, Hilferty, LaFleur, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Newell offered amendments that would have clarified the required disclosures to be made by a housing provider, allowed a housing provider to manage by electronic means any information required by a proposed law, and prohibited liability or immunity on behalf of a housing provider under certain circumstances. Representative Newell offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Goudeau, Hilferty, Jordan, LaFleur, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Maxwell Ciardullo, Louisiana Fair Housing, 1340 Poydras St., Ste. 710, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 596-2100, spoke in support of House Bill No. 180.

Edward Holmes, Step Up Louisiana, 2022 St. Bernard Ave., New Orleans, LA 70116, (504) 515-3260, spoke in support of House Bill No. 180.

*Representative Thomas in the chair.*

Elizabeth Powers, Voters Organized to Educate (VOTE), 1010 Carter Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 572-9628, spoke in support of House Bill No. 180.

Earl Hagans, 3849 N. Timbers Ct., Harvey, LA 70058, (504) 957-3988, spoke in support of House Bill No. 180.

Katie Hunter-Lowrey, Louisiana Survivors for Reform (LSR), 1024 Elysian Fields, New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 535-4912, spoke in support of House Bill No. 180.

Checo Yancy, VOTE, 251 Florida St., Ste. 201, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 270-5245, spoke in support of House Bill No. 180.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4930 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 758-9420, spoke in support of House Bill No. 180.

Ronald Marshall, VOTE, 4930 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 547-5709, spoke in support of House Bill No. 180.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 180 with amendments, to which Representative Tarver objected. After discussion, Representative Newell withdrew the motion.

Representative Newell offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 180. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 180 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Cox, Goudeau, Hilferty, LaFleur, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 48 in support and 34 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. A copy of the statement is included in the committee records.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the minutes of the 2022 Regular Session for the meetings held on March 15, March 21, March 22, March 29, April 5, April 18, April 25, April 26, May 2, May 9, May 16, and May 23, 2022. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Goudeau, Jordan, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Cox, Goudeau, Hilferty, LaFleur, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Paula P. Davis  
House Committee on Commerce

Date adopted: