

House Committee on Commerce

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 9, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Thomas, member of the House Committee on Commerce, called the meeting to order at 9:35 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 Paul Hollis
Representative Edmond Jordan
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur
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 Scott McKnight

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, student clerk
Nevonda Reed, division director

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 585 by Representative Echols**

Representative Echols presented House Bill No. 585, which provides relative to economic development.

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, Cox, Goudeau, LaFleur, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered amendments to:

- (1) Place the Council for Economic Prosperity within the Department of Economic Development.
- (2) Clarify that the chairman shall not designate a representative to chair the full council meeting where the final adoption of the master plan is considered and shall personally preside over such meeting.
- (3) Clarify that the council shall consult the advisory commission when submitting an outline of the master plan and objectives through the submission of the Economic Development Action Plan.
- (4) Add a subcommittee for regional economic development under the executive council.
- (5) Make technical changes.

Anne Villa, Louisiana Economic Development, 617 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3000, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 585.

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, Cox, Goudeau, LaFleur, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Pressly offered a motion to report House Bill No. 585 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 585 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Fontenot, Goudeau, LaFleur, 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.

Representative Davis in the chair.

House Bill No. 640 by Representative Stefanski

Representative Stefanski presented House Bill No. 640, which provides relative to historical horse racing fees.

Representative Davis offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 640. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 640 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Fontenot, Goudeau, LaFleur, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

House Bill No. 602 by Representative Deshotel

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

Representative Davis offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 602. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 602 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Goudeau, Hilferty, LaFleur, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 6 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 415 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 415, which provides relative to central bank digital currency.

Representative Davis offered amendments to:

- (1) Add definition of central bank digital currency.
- (2) Make technical changes.

Representative Davis 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, Cox, Goudeau, Hilferty, LaFleur, Newell, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Walt Green, 400 Convention St., Ste. 1100, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 806-7031, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 415.

Sancha Smith, 904 Tensas Dr., Opelousas, LA 70570, (337) 308-8696, spoke in support of House Bill No. 415.

Representative Davis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 415 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 415 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hilferty, Hollis, LaFleur, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 725 in support. Copies of those statements are included in the committee records electronically.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 71 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 71, which urges the United States Congress to not support any legislation or efforts to adopt a central bank digital currency in the United States.

Representative Davis offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 71 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 71 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hilferty, Hollis, LaFleur, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, and Thomas 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.

Statements submitted in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 16 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 469 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 469, which provides relative to licensure for plumbers.

Representative Davis offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Delete the term "plumber helper".
- (3) Change the term "apprentice" to "apprentice plumber" in proposed law.
- (4) Revise proposed law that defines "direct, constant, on-the-job supervision".
- (5) Add hour-requirements for a tradesman plumbers limited license to proposed law.
- (6) Add that the regulations issued pursuant to present law shall incorporate existing procedures, remedies, and enforcement processes in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act.
- (7) Add the definition of an unindentured apprentice and apprentice gas fitter.

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, Hilferty, Hollis, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yeas.

Joe Maranto, United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, 5888 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70805, (225) 485-4727, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 469.

Derek Babcock, 13600 Quail Run Ave., Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 505-9505, spoke in support of House Bill No. 469.

Nick Felton, Louisiana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization (AFL-CIO), 429 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 450-6679, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 469.

Ashley Tullier, State Plumbing Board of Louisiana (SPBLA), 11304 Cloverland Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 505-6325, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 469.

Michael Joiner, SPBLA, 11304 Cloverland Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (318) 934-3452, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 469.

Terry Smith, Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors of Louisiana (PHCCLA), 18600 Red Oak Dr., Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 266-8400, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 469.

Representative Davis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 469 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 469 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, LaFleur, Newell, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 567 by Representative St. Blanc

Representative St. Blanc presented House Bill No. 567, which provides relative to gross vehicle weight for certain vehicles transporting specified construction materials.

Representative Davis offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 567. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 567 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, LaFleur, Newell, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

House Bill No. 531 by Representative Miguez

Representative Miguez presented House Bill No. 531, which provides for the Louisiana Department of Economic Development to establish and administer the Louisiana Industrial Product Certification Program.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 531 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 531 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Goudeau, Green, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, LaFleur, Pressly, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

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

House Resolution No. 39 by Representative Miguez

Representative Miguez presented House Resolution No. 39, which memorializes Congress to enact a trade policy that supports United States businesses and workers while penalizing global polluters.

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 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Green, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, LaFleur, Pressly, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Davis offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 39 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 39 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Green, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, LaFleur, Pressly, St. Blanc, and Thomas 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.

House Bill No. 606 by Representative Jordan

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 606 from May 8, 2023. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 606.

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

Representative Jordan offered a motion to reconsider the vote by which the amendments to House Bill No. 606 were adopted. Without objection, the amendments were reconsidered by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Fontenot, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, LaFleur, Pressly, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Jordan offered a motion to withdraw the amendments that were previously adopted for House Bill No. 606. Without objection, the amendments were withdrawn by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Fontenot, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, LaFleur, Pressly, 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 on the adjacent property of a single-family residence or on the property of a multi-family residence. If the lessee fulfills the requirements of proposed law, the termination shall not be reported to a credit bureau if the lessee pays the rent owed for the remaining term of the lease.
- (2) Add that a lessor may pursue legal actions to recover the paid amount owed for the remaining term of the lease.
- (3) Make technical changes.

Representative Jordan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Cox, Fontenot, Green, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, LaFleur, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, 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., 222 St. Louis St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 389-5165, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 606.

Representative Hollis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 606 with amendments, to which Representative Pressly objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 606 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Brown, Cox, Fontenot, Green, Hilferty, Hollis, Jordan, LaFleur, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Davis, Pressly, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted nay.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion regarding implementation of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) freeboard standards as recommended by the ASCE-24 Freeboard Task Force and adopted by the LA State Uniform Construction Code Council.

Archie Chaisson, Lafourche Parish Government, 402 Green St., Thibodeaux, LA 70301, (985) 446-8427, spoke for information only.

Rick Foster, Building Officials Association of Louisiana, 116 N. Range Ave., Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 445-1280, spoke for information only.

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 Brown, Cox, Fontenot, Hilferty, LaFleur, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Paula P. Davis
House Committee on Commerce

Date adopted: