

House Committee on Commerce

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 15, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Speaker Schexnayder, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Chad Brown
Representative Adrian Fisher
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Jonathan Goudeau, I
Representative Stephanie Hilferty, vice chairman
Representative Paul Hollis
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
Representative Clay Schexnayder, ex officio

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Paula P. Davis, chairman
Representative Kenny R. Cox
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.

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 Dobard, division director
Randall Ike, committee clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 160 by Senator Cortez**

President Cortez presented Senate Bill No. 160, which provides relative to the powers and duties of the Louisiana Racing Commission.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 160 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 160 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Fontenot, Goudeau, LaFleur, McKnight, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 218 by Senator Womack

Senator Womack presented Senate Bill No. 218, which provides for powers, duties, and functions of the State Plumbing Board.

Representative St. Blanc offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative St. Blanc 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, Fontenot, Goudeau, McKnight, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Schexnayder voted yea.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 218 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 218 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, LaFleur, McKnight, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 30 by Senator Peacock

Senator Peacock presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 30, which commends and expresses support for economic trade and friendship between the state of Louisiana and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 30 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 30 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, LaFleur, McKnight, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 51 by Senator Milligan

Senator Milligan presented Senate Bill No. 51, which provides relative to the Louisiana Electric Utility Energy Transition Securitization Act.

Davante Lewis, Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC), 602 N. Fifth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 266-6475, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 51.

Brandon Frey, LPSC, P.O. Box 91154, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 342-5163, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 51.

Jackson Voss, Alliance for Affordable Energy, 4505 S. Claiborne Ave., New Orleans, LA 70175, (985) 789-2574, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 51.

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

Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 51 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 51 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Jordan, LaFleur, McKnight, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 182 by Senator Connick

Senator Connick presented Senate Bill No. 182, which increases penalties for violations relative to the purchase of junk, used or secondhand property, or scrap metal.

Representative St. Blanc offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hollis, Jordan, LaFleur, McKnight, Newell, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 182 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 182 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Fisher, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hollis, Jordan, LaFleur, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

The committee stood at ease at 10:02 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:04 a.m.

Senate Bill No. 190 by Senator Smith

On behalf of Senator Smith, Representative Fontenot presented Senate Bill No. 190, which provides relative to certain payments for home improvement contracting services.

Representative McKnight offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 190 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 190 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hilferty, Hollis, McKnight, Newell, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

House Bill No. 615 by Representative Hodges

Representative Thomas offered a motion to voluntarily defer 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. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 615 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hilferty, Hollis, McKnight, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individual who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

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 Brown, Fontenot, Goudeau, Hilferty, Hollis, McKnight, Pressly, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Paula P. Davis
House Committee on Commerce

Date adopted: