

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 3, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Rick Edmonds, chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Rick Edmonds, chairman
Representative Mary DuBuisson
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Cedric B. Glover
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Scott McKnight
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Joseph A. Stagni, vice chairman
Representative Matthew Willard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Alexandra Cravins, committee administrative assistant
Sarah Baker, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Frank Meyer, IV, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 355 by Representative DeVillier

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 355, which authorizes the city of Eunice to levy a hotel occupancy tax.

Scott A. Fontenot, city of Eunice, P.O. Box 1106, Eunice, LA 70535, (337) 457-7389, spoke in support of House Bill No. 355.

Representative DuBuisson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 355 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 355 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yeas.

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. 136 by Representative Bagley

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 136, which provides for the abolition of the office of police chief and the police department for the village of Noble.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 136 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 136 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, Stagni, and Willard voted yeas.

House Bill No. 56 by Representative Moore

Representative Moore presented House Bill No. 56, which authorizes the Monroe City School Board to levy an ad valorem tax for the purpose of funding early childhood care and education.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 56 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 56 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 139 by Representative Stefanski

Representative Stefanski presented House Bill No. 139, which provides relative to administrative adjudication of certain ordinance violations in the parish of Acadia.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 139 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 139 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 274 by Representative Jefferson

Representative Jefferson presented House Bill No. 274, which provides relative to the investment of certain funds by the governing authority of Lincoln Parish.

Michael Sutton, Lincoln Parish Police Jury, P.O. Box 979, Ruston, LA 71273, (318) 513-6200, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 274.

Courtney Hall, Lincoln Parish Police Jury, P.O. Box 979, Ruston, LA 71273, (318) 513-6200, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 274.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 274 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 274 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Marcelle, McKnight, Schamerhorn, and Stagni voted yea.

House Bill No. 507 by Representative Edmonds

Vice Chairman Stagni in the chair.

On behalf of Representative Edmonds, Karen White, Louisiana Municipal Association, 6767 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 344-5001, presented House Bill No. 507, which provides relative to compensation for printing of the official proceedings of political subdivisions.

Representative Stagni offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by

a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, Schamerhorn, and Stagni voted yea.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association, 707 North Seventh Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-2835, spoke in support of House Bill No. 507.

Chairman Edmonds in the chair.

Representative McKnight offered a motion to report House Bill No. 507 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 507 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, Schamerhorn, and Stagni 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.

House Bill No. 362 by Representative Fontenot

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 362, which provides relative to the qualifications of an elected or appointed police chief.

Mike Knaps, Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 6767 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 317-1021, spoke in support of House Bill No. 362.

Chairman Edmonds announced that the committee would observe a three-minute rule for presenters and speakers on ensuing instruments.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 362 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 362 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Stagni voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 223 by Representative Brown

Representative Brown presented House Bill No. 223, which provides relative to the Iberville Parish Parks and Recreation District.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 223 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 223 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

Edmonds, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Marcelle, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Stagni voted yea.

House Bill No. 268 by Representative Farnum

Representative Farnum presented House Bill No. 268, which provides relative to the salaries of firefighters employed by the city of Sulphur.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 268 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 268 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 105 by Representative Carrier

Representative Carrier presented House Bill No. 105, which provides relative to the civil service status of employees of Kinder Public Housing Authority.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 105 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 105 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 225 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 225, which provides relative to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

J.P. Morrell, New Orleans City Council, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in support of House Bill No. 225 and provided a handout containing copies of documents relative to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, labeled Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 225 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 225 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, 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.

House Bill No. 344 by Representative Selders

Representative Selders presented House Bill No. 344, which provides with respect to certain permits required by parishes and municipalities.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 344 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 344 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 163 by Representative Selders

Representative Selders presented House Bill No. 163, which provides relative to the secretary of the Baton Rouge municipal fire and police civil service board.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 163 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 163 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Freiberg, Fontenot, Gadberry, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, Schamerhorn, Stagni, 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.

House Bill No. 79 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 79, which provides relative to the position of deputy police chief in the city of Jennings.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 79. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 79 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in opposition, and 1 for information only.

House Bill No. 450 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 450, which authorizes the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish to rebate sales and use tax revenue collected on the sale of admission tickets to certain events.

Representative Edmonds offered amendments that:

1. Specified that only city or parish tax revenues be rebated.
2. Changed criteria for facilities and events that may qualify for a rebate as follows:
 - a) If based on seating capacity of a facility, from 10,000 to 7,500.
 - b) If based on average daily attendance, from 25,000 to 7,500.
3. Required approval of the rebate prior to commencement of ticket sales.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, Schamerhorn, and Stagni voted yea.

Brace Godfrey, III, Baton Rouge Area Chamber, 564 Laurel Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 381-7147, spoke in support of House Bill No. 450.

Jill Kidder, Visit Baton Rouge, 359 Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 803-7033, spoke in support of House Bill No. 450.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 450 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 450 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Stagni 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.

House Bill No. 565 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 565, which creates the University Security District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Jason Droddy, LSU, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 565.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 565 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 565 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Stagni 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. 25 by Representative Hollis

Representative Hollis presented House Bill No. 25, which provides relative to parish and municipal libraries.

Representative Raymond Garofalo, House District No. 107, spoke in support of House Bill No. 25.

Kathleen Benfield, Louisiana Family Forum, 655 St. Ferdinand, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-8533, spoke in support of House Bill No. 25.

Andrew Frisard, 334 Moonraker Drive, Slidell, LA, (504) 512-1039, spoke in support of House Bill No. 25.

Sarah Jane Guidry, Forum for Equality, 4519 South Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 301-6006, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 25.

Mary Anne Mushatt, 10,000 Women, 6030 South Robertson Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 861-8292, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 25.

Annie Robertson, St. Tammany Alliance, 156 Moonraker Drive, Slidell, LA 70458, (985) 774-8162, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 25.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 25. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 25 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 47 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee, are as follows: 5 in support, and 20 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 23 by Representative Gadberry

Representative Gadberry presented House Bill No. 23, which requires local governments that issue permits for parades to require the parade organization to provide for cleanup of litter.

Representative Edmonds offered amendments that:

1. Made provisions for removal of litter by an organization holding a parade optional rather than mandatory.
2. Removed the requirement for organizations to pay a deposit.
3. Removed the requirement for adoption of ordinances establishing parade litter policies.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Gadberry, Glover, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to voluntarily defer House Bill No. 23. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 23 was reported voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Freiberg, Glover, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 482 by Representative Echols

Representative Echols presented House Bill No. 482, which provides relative to a Louisiana Music Trail.

Representative Stagni offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Echols provided a handout, an opinion from Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry dated February 13, 2023, entitled "OPINION 23-0015", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Kristen Sanders, 1051 North Third Street, Fifth Floor, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-7009, spoke on behalf of Lieutenant Governor Nungesser, in support of House Bill No. 482.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 482 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 482 was reported by substitute by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 628 by Representative Hodges

Representative Hodges presented House Bill No. 628, which provides relative to the membership of the Livingston Parish Library Board of Control.

Lisa Rustemeyer, 104 West Ninth Avenue, Covington, LA 70433, (985) 234-9970, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 628.

Sarah Jane Guidry, Forum for Equality, 4519 South Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70722, (504) 301-6006, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 628.

Peyton Rose Michelle, Louisiana Trans Advocates, 1099 Ruth Drive, St. Martinville, LA, 70582, (337) 356-9312, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 628 and submitted a letter on behalf of Amanda Jones, Louisiana Association of School Librarians, 34390 LA Highway 1019, Denham Springs, LA 70706, who submitted a letter to committee members in opposition to House Bill No. 628, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Joan Simm, 154 Belle Terre, Covington, LA, (985) 807-7329, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 628.

Rachel Rhodes, 67169 Thackery Street, Mandeville, LA, (985) 246-9385, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 628.

Lori Callais, 10,000 Women Louisiana, 1011 Bay Tree Drive, Denham Springs, LA, (225) 324-9397, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 628.

Lynette Mejia, Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship, 151 Schoeffler Road, Carencro, LA 70520, (337) 254-2174, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 628.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 628 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 628 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Green, Kerner, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 25 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 224 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 224, which provides relative to contracts awarded to socially and economically disadvantaged businesses in the city of New Orleans.

Representative Boyd provided a letter in support of House Bill No. 224 from the New Orleans City Council dated April 4, 2023, labeled Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Roy Quezairé, Advanced Concepts Consulting, LLC, P.O. Box 269, Donaldsonville, LA 70346, (225) 715-2883, spoke in support of House Bill No. 224.

Steven Kennedy, The Collaborative, no address provided, (504) 287-3007, spoke in support of House Bill No. 224.

Arthur Walten, city of New Orleans representing Mayor Latoya Cantrell, 1300 Perdido Street, Suite 2E04, New Orleans, LA, (504) 658-4943, spoke in support of House Bill No. 224.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 224 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 224 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Willard offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Rick Edmonds
House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Date adopted: