

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 11, 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 9:35 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 Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Joseph A. Stagni, vice chairman
Representative Matthew Willard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Scott McKnight

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Sarah Baker, committee administrative assistant
Jennifer Watson, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Frank Meyer, IV, clerk
Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to limit presenters and witness testimony to three minutes. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 by Representative DeVillier

Representative DeVillier presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 51, which recognizes Liberty Theater in Eunice as the Center for Louisiana Culture and Folklife.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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. 373 by Representative DeVillier

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 373, which provides relative to drinking water providers.

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 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 373 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 373 was reported by substitute by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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. 275 by Representative Travis Johnson

Representative Travis Johnson presented House Bill No. 275, which provides relative to Concordia Parish Hospital Service District No. 1.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 275 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 275 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 128 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 128, which provides relative to nuisance ordinances regarding grass cutting in West Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 128 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 128 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 358 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 358, which provides relative to the membership of the governing board of Waterworks District No. 1 of Pointe Coupee Parish.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 358 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 358 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 335 by Representative Wilford Carter

Representative Wilford Carter presented House Bill No. 335, which creates the North Lake Charles Economic Development District. Representative Carter provided handouts, "North Lake Charles Economic Development District", labeled Exhibit A; a Calcasieu Parish tax rates table from Louisiana Association of Tax Administrators, labeled Exhibit B; and Resolution 101-22 from the City Council of the city of Lake Charles in support of House Bill No. 335, labeled Exhibit C, which are included in the committee records.

Representative Lyons offered amendments to:

1. Authorize the district to levy a hotel occupancy tax on developments constructed after August 1, 2023, subject to voter approval and the approval of the Lake Charles City Council. Add a requirement that tax funds be pledged to and used to pay revenue bonds issued by the district and for other financing purposes.
2. Add provisions to provide that a "tax increment" also consists of any portion of a hotel occupancy tax levied by the district and other local governmental subdivisions or other tax recipient bodies on developments constructed after August 1, 2023.

Representative Lyons 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, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Craig Marks, City Council District F, Lake Charles, Louisiana, 1625 23rd Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, (337) 794-1860, spoke in support of House Bill No. 335.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 335 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 335 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, 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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 2 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 129 by Representative Wilford Carter

Representative Wilford Carter presented House Bill No. 129, which repeals the provisions of the Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 129 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 129 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 50 by Representative Magee

Representative Magee presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 50, which provides relative to an America 250 state commission.

Representative Edmonds offered amendments to add one member, an appointee of the state superintendent of education, to the commission. Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 50 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 50 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 56 by Representative Freeman

On behalf of Representative Freeman, Representative Landry presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 56, which forms a special committee to study and make recommendations concerning taxation of short-term rentals and other types of commercial housing enterprises operating in New Orleans.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 56 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 56 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, 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. 269 by Representative Landry

Representative Landry presented House Bill No. 269, which provides relative to the Delachaise Security and Improvement District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 269 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 269 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

Edmonds, DuBuisson, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 276 by Representative Landry

Representative Landry presented House Bill No. 276, which provides relative to fines for building code violations in New Orleans.

Trey Caruso, City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-4900, spoke in support of House Bill No. 276.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 276 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 276 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Kerner, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 624 by Representative Butler

Representative Butler presented House Bill No. 624, which creates the Evangeline Economic Development Authority in Evangeline Parish.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 624 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 624 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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. 201 by Representative McCormick

Representative McCormick presented House Bill No. 201, which provides relative to the boundaries of the Caddo-Bossier Port.

Eric England, Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission, 6000 Doug Attaway Boulevard, Shreveport, LA 71115, (318) 426-0878, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 201 and provided a letter from Timothy J. Magner, ED.D., on behalf of the Greater Shreveport Chamber, labeled Exhibit D, and a flyer entitled "VOTE NO", labeled Exhibit E, which are included in the committee records.

Dannye Malone, Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission, 6000 Doug Attaway Boulevard, Shreveport, LA 71115, (318) 573-6461, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 201.

William C. Bradford, Jr., Rocking R. Solar, 333 Texas Street, Suite 700, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 426-1128, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 201.

Jennifer Marusak, Ports Association of Louisiana, P.O. Box 82880, Baton Rouge, LA 70884, (225) 572-1916, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 201.

Representative Green offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 201. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 201 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, 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: 8 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 608 by Representative McCormick

Representative McCormick presented House Bill No. 608, which provides relative to zoning regulations and restrictions in Caddo Parish.

Representative Green offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 608. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 608 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 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: 41 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 410 by Representative Glover

Representative Glover presented House Bill No. 410, which establishes the Shreveport Water Works Museum as a facility within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Dale Ward, McNeill Street Pump Station Preservation Society, P.O. Box 957, Shreveport, LA 71163, (318) 221-3388, spoke in support of House Bill No. 410.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 410 favorably, and recommit to the Committee on Appropriations. Without objection, House Bill No. 410 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg,

Gadberry, Glover, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 2 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 42 by Representative Cormier

Representative Cormier presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 42, which memorializes congress to establish Fort Jackson in Plaquemines Parish as a national park.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 42 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 42 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 134 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 134, which provides relative to the qualifications of members of the municipal fire and police civil service board in the city of Baton Rouge.

Brandon Williams, 13568 Landmark Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 445-6003, spoke in support of House Bill No. 134.

Dwight Hudson, East Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council District 9, 222 St. Louis Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 389-4688, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 134 and provided Resolution 57047 from the Metropolitan Council of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge, labeled Exhibit F, which was read aloud by Chairman Edmonds and is included in the committee records.

William Profita, Baton Rouge Union of Police, 201 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 978-4231, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 134.

John Dauthier, no address provided, Zachary, LA 70791, (985) 969-0921, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 134.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 134. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 134 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and

0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Green, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in opposition, and 1 for information only.

House Bill No. 25 by Representative Hollis

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

Representative Farnum offered amendments to:

1. Remove proposed law authorizing parish and municipal governing authorities to regulate and oversee boards of control and their officers, employees, and libraries.
2. Add a reference to existing law authorizing parishes and municipalities to abolish entities they created and to remove board members they appointed.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which Representative Willard objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representatives Glover, Green, Lyons, Newell, Stagni, and Willard voted nay.

Representative Raymond Garofalo, House District No. 107, spoke in support of House Bill No. 25, and provided handouts: "House Bill 25 Library Bill by Representative Paul Hollis", labeled Exhibit G; an opinion letter from Attorney General Jeff Landry, labeled Exhibit H; and a document entitled "Protecting Innocence", labeled Exhibit I, which are included in committee records.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 25 with amendments. No vote was taken.

Representative Stagni offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 25, to which Representative Farnum objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 25 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives DuBuisson, Freiberg, Glover, Green, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Stagni, and Willard voted yea. Representatives Edmonds, Farnum, Fontenot, Gadberry, Kerner, and Schamerhorn voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 21 in support, and 36 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: 2 in support, and 144 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Edmonds announced that House Bill No. 507, which provides relative to compensation for printing of the official proceedings of political subdivisions, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Willard offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: