

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 18, 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 9:30 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 Cedric B. Glover
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Scott McKnight
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Matthew Willard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Joseph A. Stagni, vice chairman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Alexandra Stefanski, clerk

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 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Glover, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 92 by Senator Fesi

Senator Fesi presented Senate Bill No. 92, which provides for the board of commissioners of veterans' memorial districts, and provided a brochure of the Regional Military Museum in Houma, labeled Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 92 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 92 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, and Schamerhorn 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. 91 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 91, which urges the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission to have automated external defibrillators on its premises.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 91 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 91 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 37 by Senator Allain

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 37, which provides relative to the civil service status of employees of the Berwick Housing Authority.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 37 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 37 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 222 by Senator Allain

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 222, which provides relative to the civil service status of employees of the Morgan City Housing Authority.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 222 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 222 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Kerner, Marcelle, McKnight, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 57 by Senator Foil

Senator Foil presented Senate Bill No. 57, which provides for the board of commissioners for the East Baton Rouge Parish Communications District.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 57 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 57 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McKnight, and Schamerhorn 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.

Senate Bill No. 70 by Senator Fields

Senator Fields presented Senate Bill No. 70, which authorizes the creation of cooperative economic development districts affiliated with Southern University and Louisiana State University in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Edmonds offered amendments to remove provisions that prohibited the district from levying taxes, assessments, or fees on property operated for industrial use and instead prohibit the district from levying or assessing any property tax fee on property that is operated as an exempt entity; remove the reference to industrial uses and instead provide a definition of "industrial activities"; and define "exempt entity".

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds,

DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McKnight, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Fontenot offered amendments to require the district to hold any election regarding the levy of taxes or assessments on a date provided for in present law relative to gubernatorial or congressional primary elections (R.S. 18:402(A)(1) or (B)(1)).

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McKnight, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

William F. Tate, IV, Louisiana State University, 3810 West Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 70.

Charles Landry, Fishman Haygood, no address provided, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 70.

Liz Mangum, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 70.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 70 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 70 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McKnight, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 76 by Senator Fred Mills

Senator Fred Mills presented Senate Bill No. 76, which creates a special medical district in St. Martin Parish.

Representative Fontenot offered amendments to require that any election pursuant to proposed law be held on a date that corresponds with an election date provided by present law (R.S. 18:402(A)(1) or (B)(1)) regarding gubernatorial or congressional elections.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McKnight, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 76 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 76 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 58 by Senator Connick

Senator Connick presented Senate Bill No. 58, which provides for creation of a public benefit corporation in Jefferson Parish.

Representative Kerner offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 58 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 58 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Kerner, Lyons, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 225 by Senator Pope

Senator Pope presented Senate Bill No. 225, which authorizes the city of Denham Springs to levy a hotel occupancy tax.

Representative Fontenot offered amendments to require that any election regarding the levy of the tax be held on a date that corresponds with an election date provided by present law (R.S. 18:402(A)(1) or (B)(1)) regarding gubernatorial or congressional primary elections.

Representative Fontenot 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, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr., House District No. 71, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 225.

Jarod Stevens, assistant fire chief, Denham Springs Fire Department, 116 North Range Avenue, Denham Springs, LA 70726, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 225.

Eric Edwards, Livingston Parish Tourism, 13302 My Chance Drive, Maurepas, LA 70449, (225) 505-9867, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 225.

Representative McKnight in the chair.

Anand Patel, Hampton Inn Denham Springs, 201 Rushing Road West, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 665-0555, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 225.

Dan Mobley, Louisiana Travel Association, 14141 Airline Highway, Suite 1Q, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 225.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 225 with amendments, to which Representative Schamerhorn objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 225 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Glover, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McKnight, Newell, and Willard voted yea. Representative Schamerhorn voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 22 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 87 by Senator Robert Mills

Senator Robert Mills presented Senate Bill No. 87, which provides for the jurisdictional boundaries of the Benton Metropolitan Planning Commission, and provided a map of the jurisdictional boundaries of the Benton Metropolitan Planning Commission, labeled Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Glover offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 87 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 87 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Glover, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, 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.

Senate Bill No. 229 by Senator Duplessis

Senator Duplessis presented Senate Bill No. 229, which provides for the boundaries and certain payments to the New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority Economic Growth and Development District.

David Phelps, Ernest N. Morial Exhibition Hall Authority, 900 Convention Center Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 582-3000, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 229.

Wayne J. Neveu, 24 Park Island Drive, New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 858-5543, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 229.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 229 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 229 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Glover, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 136 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 136, which provides relative to the governance of the Baton Rouge North Economic Development District.

Representative McKnight offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 136. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 136 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DuBuisson, Farnum, Freiberg, Glover, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 231 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 231, which provides relative to the creation of the Mickens Place Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Edmonds offered amendments to change the name of the district.

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, DuBuisson, Farnum, Freiberg, Glover, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

Darryl Hearst, East Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council District 5, 3535 Riley Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, (225) 202-5416, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 231.

Chairman Edmonds in the chair.

Christopher Richard, no witness card provided, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 231.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 231 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 231 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Freiberg, Glover, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 232 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 232, which provides for creation of the Victoria Farms Crime Prevention and Improvement District.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 232 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 232 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Glover, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, 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.

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 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, DuBuisson, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Glover, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: