

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 25, 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 9:42 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Scott McKnight

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

The committee recessed at 9:49 a.m.

The committee reconvened at 12:37 p.m.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 116 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 116, which expresses support for development of a Levitt Pavilion in Armstrong Park in New Orleans.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 116 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 116 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Stagni, DuBuisson, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 43 by Senator Bernard

Senator Bernard presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 43, which creates a task force to study the dissolution or absorption of fiscally distressed municipalities.

Mike Waguespack, Louisiana Legislative Auditor, P.O. Box 94397, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 339-3840, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 43.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North Seventh Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 43.

Karen White, Louisiana Municipal Association, 6767 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 344-5001, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 43.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 43 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 43 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Stagni, DuBuisson, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

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 Edmonds offered amendments to:

1. Remove provisions that reduced the board membership from nine to five and changed board appointments by granting all appointments to the state senators for Senate District Nos.14 and 15.
2. Restore present law provisions to maintain board appointments and board membership at nine members except to remove one appointment granted to the state representative for House District No. 29.
3. Remove proposed law provisions that authorized the district to divide the district into subdistricts.

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

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 136 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 136 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Stagni, DuBuisson, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: