

House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
April 12, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Mark Wright, chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Mark Wright, chairman
Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass, vice chairman
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Cedric B. Glover
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Vincent J. Pierre
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Larry Selders

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Robert "Bob" Owen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allison Williams, legislative analyst
Jennifer Winkler, legislative analyst
Darcas Deverteuil, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 343 by Representative Bagley**

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 343, which redesignates a portion of Louisiana Highway 171 in DeSoto Parish as the "Chris Gray Memorial Highway".

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 343 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 343 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

House Bill No. 301 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 301, which provides relative to compensation to wrecker service companies for costs associated with undertaking remedial action involving hazardous material accidents.

Representative Selders offered a motion to report House Bill No. 301 favorably, to which Representative Moore objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 301 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Firment, Gadberry, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea. Representatives Edmonston, Freiberg, and Moore voted nay. Representative Wright abstained.

House Bill No. 227 by Representative Green

On behalf of Representative Green, Captain Jonas Martin, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 678-6007, presented House Bill No. 227, which provides relative to uniform traffic citations.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 227 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 227 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders 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. 323 by Representative Pierre

Representative Pierre presented House Bill No. 323, which creates the "Juneteenth" specialty license plate.

Pastor Abram Freeman, The Southwest Juneteenth Committee, 104 Blue Boy Dr., Scott, LA 70583, (337) 706-2165, spoke in support of House Bill No. 323.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 323 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 323 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders 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. 322 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 322, which specifies that certain motor vehicle violations are secondary offenses that cannot be grounds for initiating a stop.

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove the provision that made a violation of the modification of exhaust system requirements a nonmoving violation that would constitute a secondary offense in which the driver could only be stopped for a primary offense.
- (2) Remove the provision that made a violation of outward or inward through windshield requirements a nonmoving violation that would constitute a secondary offense in which the driver could only be cited if the vehicle was stopped for a primary offense.
- (3) Change four calendar months to two calendar months for the periodical inspection sticker for the windshield.

Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Mr. Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 N 6th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 256-8196, spoke in support of House Bill No. 322.

Representative Wright offered amendments to remove the provision that made a violation of signal lamp and signal device requirements a nonmoving violation that would constitute a secondary offense in which a driver could only be cited if the vehicle was stopped for a primary offense.

Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yeas.

Representative Selders offered an amendment to keep the jay walking provision in House Bill No. 322.

Zaren James, Division Director of Resource and Infrastructure, explained that the amendment that originated in committee by Representative Selders removes the periodic inspection required by the secretary. After discussion, Representative Selders withdrew the amendment.

Mr. Michael Ranatza, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only.

Mr. Mike Knaps, Louisiana Association Chiefs' of Police, 6767 Perkins Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only.

Representative Cormier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 322 with amendments, to which Representative Schamerhorn objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 322 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Glover, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Selders voted yeas. Representatives Firment, Horton, and Schamerhorn voted nay. Representative Wright abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 24 in support and 1 for information only.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Wright announced that the committee would meet tomorrow and will only meet on Tuesday and Wednesday of the following week.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Wright offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Mark Wright
House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Date adopted: