

## **House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works**

Minutes of Meeting  
2023 Regular Session  
April 13, 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 10:08 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Mark Wright, 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 Robert "Bob" Owen  
Representative Vincent J. Pierre  
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn  
Representative Larry Selders

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass, vice chairman

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms  
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 520 by Representative Carrier**

Representative Carrier presented House Bill No. 520, which creates the "Utility Lineman" special prestige license plate.

Jody Montelaro, Entergy, 446 N. Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-5865, spoke in support of House Bill No. 520.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 520 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 520 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not want to speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in committee records.

**House Bill No. 501 by Representative Huval**

Representative Huval presented House Bill No. 501, which creates the "Electric Line Worker" specialty license plate.

Representative Wright offered an amendment to remove "Entergy" from the list of companies to aid prospective students desiring to work in the field. Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Jody Montelaro, Entergy, 446 N. Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-5865, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 520.

Representative Pierre offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 501. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 501 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

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

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

- (1) Prohibit the commission from using the payment in lieu of taxes program in Caddo Fire District 7 or 8 unless the commission receives authorization in the form of a written resolution from the board of commissioners of the district.
- (2) Remove a provision that exempted the commission from the authority, control, or supervision of any regulatory body or any political subdivision.

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, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

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 Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 201 with amendments, to which Representative Wright objected. Representative Wright offered a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 201 with amendments, with recommendation that it be recommitted to the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs. Without objection, House Bill No. 201 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Robert Owen, Pierre, and Selders voted yea. Representatives Gadberry, Charles Owen, and Schamerhorn voted nay. Representative Wright abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 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: 3 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 390 by Representative Adams**

Representative Adams presented House Bill No. 390, which prohibits pedestrians from pushing carts on state highways.

Representative Cormier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 390 favorably, to which Representative Schamerhorn objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas, 7 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Cormier, Glover, Moore, Pierre, and Selders voted yea. Representatives Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, and Schamerhorn voted nay. Representative Wright abstained.

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. 516 by Representative Kerner**

Representative Kerner presented House Bill No. 516, which provides for placement of a special identification sticker or decal on a motor vehicle operated by a person with autism spectrum disorder or their guardian.

Marsha Clanton, no other information provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 516.

Jill Jarreau, OMV, 7979 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-7917, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 516.

Jimmy Challis Core, Louisiana Association of the Deaf, 1359 Sharlod Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70820, spoke in opposition of House Bill No. 516.

Representative Wright offered an amendment to:

- (1) Add a provision requiring proof, at the time of application, of the disorder for which the sticker or decal is requested.

Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Glover, Horton, Moore, Robert Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.

- (2) Change "a person with autism spectrum disorder" to "persons with autism spectrum disorder who have obtained the autism spectrum disorder designation in accordance with present law".
- (3) Add an exception for documentation provided to the office of motor vehicles from public records law.
- (4) Add a provision that provides medical requirements for obtaining a driver's license identification decal or sticker.

Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Glover, Horton, Moore, Robert Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 516 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 516 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Glover, Horton, Moore, Robert Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders 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. 540 by Representative Miguez**

Representative Miguez presented House Bill No. 540, which establishes a port and harbor police force for ports meeting certain requirements.

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

- (1) Change the parishes affected to both instead of either.
- (2) Change the parish that in which enforcement not be deprived of authority to a parish with a population of 68,000 to 73,000 or 57,000 to 57,400.

Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Glover, Horton, Moore, Robert Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Wendell Verret, Twin Parish Port, P.O. Box 101, Delcambre, LA 70528, (337) 322-6166, spoke in support of House Bill No. 540.

Representative Cormier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 540 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 540 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Pierre, and Selders 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. 394 by Representative Hilferty**

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 394, which establishes the "St. Mary's Dominican High School" special prestige license plate.

Representative Wright offered amendments to add St. Paul's School and St. Scholastica Academy to the special prestige license plates the secretary must establish. Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, and Selders voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 394 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 394 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Pierre, and Selders voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 573 by Representative McFarland**

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 573, which provides relative to prohibited provisions in certain public contracts.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 573 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 573 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Robert Owen, Pierre, and Selders 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.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no other business.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Wright offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Robert Owen, Pierre, and Selders voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: