

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2023 Regular Session  
May 1, 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 12:09 p.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 Kathy Edmonston  
Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment  
Representative Cedric B. Glover  
Representative Dodie Horton  
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore  
Representative Charles Anthony Owen  
Representative Vincent J. Pierre  
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Mack Marcel Cormier  
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg  
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry  
Representative Ed Larvadain, III  
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen  
Representative Larry Selders

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

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 40 by Representative Pierre**

Representative Pierre presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 40, which urges and requests state agencies report certain fiscal data on transportation services provided to their clients.

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

- (1) Change the entity responsible for reporting transportation cost related data from fiscal officers to agency head or designee.
- (2) Change the entity responsible for compiling the transportation cost related data from the commissioner of administration to the Department of Transportation and Development, public transportation section.
- (3) Change the date that transportation cost related data is to be submitted from October 1, 2023, to August 1, 2023.
- (4) Remove from public transportation section the requirement to provide the report to the Department of Transportation by December 1, 2023.
- (5) Change the authority for a copy of the resolution be transmitted from the commissioner of administration to the agency head of each state agency.

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, Brass, Edmonston, Glover, Horton, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Eric Kalivoda, DOTD, P.O. Box 94245, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 379-1200, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 40.

James E. Mitchell, GACDA, 506 Ursiline Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 247-3657, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 40, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Moore offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 40 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 40 was reported with

amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Edmonston, Glover, Horton, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who didn't speak are as follows: 1 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 580 by Representative Huval**

Representative Huval presented House Bill No. 580, which provides relative to the operation of a motor vehicle while using a wireless telecommunication device and provided handouts, Exhibit B, and Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

- (1) Clarify that the intent of proposed law is to prohibit the use of certain wireless telecommunication devices while generally operating a motor vehicle, instead of just in school zones.
- (2) Remove school zones from the use of wireless telecommunication prohibited exceptions.
- (3) Add delivery drivers to the exception provision applicable to persons using telecommunication devices.
- (4) Clarify that operating a wireless telecommunication device while stationary is permissible.
- (5) Reduce the fine associated with violations of present and proposed law as follows:
  - (a) First violation- reduced from \$500 to not more than \$100 but not less than \$50.
  - (b) Second violation- reduced from not more than \$1000 to not more than \$100.
  - (c) Proposed third/subsequent violations- reduced from not more than \$300 to not more than a \$100.
- (6) Remove community service which consisted of up to 15 hours for a first violation and up to 30 hours for a second violation. Also, remove the 30 hour community service requirement for third or subsequent violations along with the suspension of the person's driver's license.
- (7) Make technical changes.

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, Brass, Edmonston, Glover, Horton, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Jennifer Smith, Stopdistractions.org, 225 N. Addison Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126, (708) 334-3058, spoke in support of House Bill No. 580.

Jacqueline Lindsey, ABATE of Louisiana, Inc., 1909 Ray Ave., Bossier City, LA 71112, (318) 573-0873, spoke in support of House Bill No. 580, and provided a handout entitled "Response to House Resolution 303: 2019 Regular Legislative Session", Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Rick "Brick" Lindsey, ABATE of Louisiana, Inc., 1909 Ray Ave., Bossier City, LA 71112, (318) 469- 7599, spoke in support of House Bill No. 580.

Shalon Ray Bourque, Jesse Ray Bourque, 1215 Main St., Church Point, LA 70525, (337) 693- 5062, spoke in support of House Bill No. 580.

Ronald Ceatkowski, Acadiana Planning Commission, 101 Jefferson St., Lafayette, LA 70502, (337) 806- 9367, spoke in support of House Bill No. 580.

Lana Heine, 7462 Island Rd., Ventress, LA 70783, (225) 713-9733, spoke in support of House Bill No. 580.

John Swisher, Automotive and Wrecker Industry, 1741 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Lutcher, LA 70071, (985) 469- 1188, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 580.

Richard Brown, 824 Sessions Ln., Kenner, LA 70065, (504) 982- 7422, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 580.

Dennis Burke, 6525 Gladys St., Metairie, LA, no zip code provided, (504) 885- 2630, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 580.

Stacey Allesandro, 3309 Chateau Blvd., Kenner, LA 70065, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 580.

Edward L. Tarpley Jr., 819 Johnston St., Alexandria, LA 71301, (318) 487-1400, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 580.

Representative Glover offered a motion to report House Bill No. 580 with amendments, to which Representative Schamerhorn objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 580 was reported with amendments by a vote of 5 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Wright,

Brass, Glover, Horton, and Moore voted yea. Representatives Edmonston, Firment, Charles Owen, and Schamerhorn voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, 1 in opposition, and 2 for information only.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 2 in support and 13 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 592 by Representative Schamerhorn**

Representative Schamerhorn presented House Bill No. 592, which provides relative to a driver education skills test.

The committee stood at ease at 12:40 p.m. The committee reconvened at 12:49 p.m.

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Remove the skills test and revert back to present law.
- (3) Make administration of a skills test permissive, instead of mandatory.
- (4) Remove the option for a restricted permit.
- (5) Remove repeated administration of skills test until student successfully passes.
- (6) Allow a parent or guardian to provide an electronic signature for any credential authorized in present law for a minor to operate a motor vehicle.

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, Brass, Edmonston, Glover, Horton, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 592 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 592 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Edmonston, Glover, Horton, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

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

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: