

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2023 Regular Session  
May 15, 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 9:57 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 Vincent J. Pierre  
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn  
Representative Larry Selders

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass, vice chairman  
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen

#### **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**

**Senate Bill No. 83 by Senator Womack**

Senator Womack presented Senate Bill No. 83, which provides for certain change orders when certain unit prices are contained in the initial contract.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Change the timeframe a contractor has to submit cost estimates to the designer from 45 to 30 days.

Representative Gadberry 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, Firmont, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Derrell Cohoon, AGC, 714 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, no number provided, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 83.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 83 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 83 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Firmont, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who didn't speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness statements are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 131 by Senator Price**

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 131, which provides for the commission for the Port of South Louisiana to set contract limits.

Roy Quezaire, Port of South LA, P.O. Box AE, Reserve, LA 70084, (225) 715-2886, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 131.

Representative Pierre offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 131 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 131 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

#### **Senate Bill No. 44 by Senator Pope**

Senator Pope presented Senate Bill No. 44, which provides relative to high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes.

Greg Hardy, DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 379-1023, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 44.

Ryan Marrant, DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 379-1067, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 44.

Eric Kalivoda, DOTD, P.O. Box 94245, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 379-1200, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 44.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 44 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 44 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

#### **Senate Bill No. 98 by Senator Carter**

Senator Carter presented Senate Bill No. 98, which provides for adding interest in bone marrow donorship to the list of options offered during application for renewal of a state-issued driver's license.

Juile Stokes, LOS, 246 Garden Rd., River Ridge, LA 70123, (504) 250-8113, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 98.

Leonard C. Alsfeld, MD, Louisiana Oncology Society, 7 Crane St., New Orleans, LA 70124, (504) 232-1575, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 98.

Representative Larvadain offered amendments to add a special effective date of July 1, 2024. Representative Larvadain offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 98 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 98 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, 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: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 73 by Representative Knox**

Representative Knox presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 73, which urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to work with other agencies and interest groups to take appropriate action to remove and prevent homeless people from residing within interstate rights of way.

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove the request that the Dept. of Transportation and Development and other agencies and interest groups remove and prevent homeless people from residing within interstate rights of way and add that they discuss potential solutions and address the public safety concerns regarding homeless people residing within the interstate rights of way.
- (2) Add the Port of New Orleans to the entities the Dept. of Transportation and Development must consult with relative to preventing the impact of homelessness on instate rights of way.
- (3) Remove the request that the Dept. of Transportation and Development take necessary action to resolve the humanitarian concerns caused by the encampments.
- (4) Remove the request that the department consider alternative housing for those displaced people living in encampments.

Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Larvadain, Moore, Pierre, and Selders voted yea.

Greg Hardy, DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA, 70802, (225)379-1023, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No.73.

Representative Pierre offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 73 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 73 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Larvadain, Moore, Pierre, Schamerhorn, 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.

**Senate Bill No. 82 by Senator Fesi**

On behalf of Senator Fesi, Mary-Patricia Wray, Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD), 2340 Tulip St., Baton Rouge, LA, 70806, presented Senate Bill No. 82, which provides relative to ignition interlock devices.

Gary Prince, MADD, P.O. Box 697, Loreauville, LA 70552, (337) 352-1662, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 82.

Joan Robinson, MADD, 5621 Cortez Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70811, (225) 288-6009, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 82.

Lisa Miller, MADD, 13054 Dee Gautreau Rd., Gonzales, LA 70737, (225) 571-2196, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 82.

Paula Zachary, MADD, 29955 W. St., Apt. B7, Albany, LA 70711, (985) 363-0047, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 82.

Representative Selders offered amendments originated in committee to add a provision for economic hardship be satisfied if the individual is an active member of a branch of the United States Armed Forces, a United States veteran, a member of law enforcement, or a full time student currently enrolled in an academic institution of higher learning. Representative Selders 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, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Representative Glover offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 82 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 82 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 2 for information only. 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: 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

**House Resolution No. 128 by Representative Mincey**

Representative Mincey presented House Resolution No. 128, which urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to study and take measures to relieve traffic congestion on Louisiana Highway 16 at Live Oak High School.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 128 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 128 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, 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.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Wright announced that there were only two senate bills left to be heard at the following meeting.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: