

House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 22, 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 10:11 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 Dodie Horton
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Vincent J. Pierre
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Cedric B. Glover
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 Resolution No. 169 by Representative DeVillier**

Representative DeVillier presented House Resolution No. 169, which requests the legislative auditor to provide information relative to Department of Transportation projects included in the Capital Outlay Act.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 169 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 169 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Edmonston, Firmont, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 74 by Senator Connick

Senator Connick presented Senate Bill No. 74, which creates the Southeast Louisiana Port Authority Advisory Commission, and presented a presentation, no copies provided.

Representative Wright offered a technical amendment. Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Edmonston, Firmont, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Representative Wright offered amendments to change the composition of the commissioners on the board by replacing the president of the board of commissioners for the Port of Greater Baton Rouge or his designee with the executive director of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge or his designee. 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, Brass, Edmonston, Firmont, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Representative Wright offered an amendment to repeal provisions creating and governing the Louisiana International Deep Water Gulf Transfer Terminal Authority and to make the repeal of the authority effective Dec. 31, 2023. Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Edmonston, Firmont, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 74 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 74 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn 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.

Senate Bill No. 43 by Senator Bouie

Senator Bouie presented Senate Bill No. 43, which exempts certain persons who sell trolling motors from licensing requirements.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 43 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 43 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 by Senator Hensgens

On behalf of Senator Hensgens, Chip Kline, CPRA, 1051 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 342-7669, presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, which approves the annual state integrated coastal protection plan for Fiscal Year 2024, as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board. He narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Plan" and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Vice-Chairman Brass in the Chair.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Edmonston, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 by Senator Hensgens

On behalf of Senator Hensgens, Chip Kline, CPRA, 1051 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 342-7669, presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17, which approves the comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection. He narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled

"Louisiana's 2023 Coastal Master Plan", and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Brent Haase, CPRA, 150 Terrace Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225)342-2179, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Edmonston, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Moore, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Chairman Wright in the Chair.

Senate Bill No. 223 by Senator Morris

Senator Morris presented Senate Bill No. 223, which increases the transaction fee for processing office of motor vehicles transactions in the city of West Monroe.

Blair Champagne, OMV, 3241 N.W. Evangeline Thwy., Lafayette, LA 70507, (337)886-3721, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 223.

Representative Moore offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 223 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 223 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Edmonston, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Moore, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 124 by Senator Kleinpeter

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Bill No. 124, which increases the penalty for driving a vehicle without a license plate attached.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 124 favorably, to which Representative Moore objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 124 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Edmonston, Firmont, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Charles Owen, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representatives Brass, Moore, and Pierre voted nay. Representative Wright abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 161 by Representative Adams

Representative Adams presented House Resolution No. 161, which urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development study the need of automated wheel chocking systems.

Darrell Glaspher, DNA Fossil Fuels & Haulage, LLC, 6022 River Bend Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 888-3958, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 161 and provided handouts, Exhibit C and Exhibit D, which are included in the committee records.

David Graf, Haulage, LLC, 2171 Hwy 98 East, Columbia, MS 39429, (601) 731-1222, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 161.

Representative Horton in the Chair.

Kenneth Breakfield, Haulage, LLC, 2171 Hwy 98 East, Columbia, MS 39429, (601) 441-0678, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 161.

Eric Kalivoda, DOTD, P.O. Box 94245, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225)379-1200, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 161.

Renee Amar, LMTA, 4838 Ben Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 928-5682, spoke in opposition to House Resolution No. 161.

Representative Brass offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Resolution No. 161. Without objection, action on House Resolution No. 161 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, and Schamerhorn 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.

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 by Senator Allain

Senator Allain presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22, which creates the Bayou Chene Operational Advisory Committee.

Representative Horton offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Change an appointing authority for one member of the advisory committee from the South Lafourche Levee District to the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District.

Representative Horton 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, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 108 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 108, which urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development conduct a study and make plans relative to emergency evacuation routes for public safety.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 108 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 108 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Chairman Wright in the Chair.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Wright announced that tentatively there were no more bills remaining to be heard, and the committee would be notified if anything changed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Moore, Charles Owen, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: