

## **House Committee on Ways and Means**

Minutes of Meeting  
2023 Regular Session  
April 19, 2023

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman  
Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV, vice chairman  
Representative Ryan Bourriaque  
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler  
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier  
Representative Les Farnum  
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe  
Representative Mandie Landry  
Representative Wayne McMahan  
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.  
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron  
Representative Tammy T. Phelps  
Representative Neil Riser  
Representative Laurie Schlegel  
Representative Malinda B. White  
Representative Matthew Willard

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant  
Representative Tanner D. Magee

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

Brittany Lea, committee administrative assistant  
Drew Murray, legislative analyst  
Alison Pryor, senior attorney

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms  
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 277 by Representative Bagley**

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 277, a constitutional amendment which provides relative to severance tax revenues remitted to parishes in which the associated severance occurs.

Representative Raymond Crews, District 8, 4921 Shed Road, Suite 200, Bossier City, Louisiana 71111, (318) 716-7532, spoke in support of House Bill No. 277.

Mr. Guy Cormier, executive director, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, (225) 343-2835, spoke in support of House Bill No. 277.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Bill No. 277 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 277 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Butler, DeVillier, Farnum, LaCombe, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Schlegel, White, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 280 by Representative Bagley**

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 280, which requires parishes to use portions of severance tax revenues received from the state for economic development activities and infrastructure projects.

Mr. Chance McNeely, DeSoto Parish, 732 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, (225) 605-3062, spoke in support of House Bill No. 280.

Representative Bishop offered a technical amendment to identify by bill number the proposed constitutional amendment on which the effectiveness of proposed law is contingent. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Butler, DeVillier, Farnum, LaCombe, Landry, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Schlegel, White, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 280 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 280 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Butler, DeVillier, Farnum, LaCombe, Landry, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Schlegel, White, and Willard 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. 278 by Representative McFarland**

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 278, a constitutional amendment which increases amounts of severance tax revenues remitted to parishes and requires that portions of these amounts be spent on parish transportation projects.

Ms. Deborah Vivien, chief economist, Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO), 900 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 18<sup>th</sup> floor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804, (225) 342-7233, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 278.

Mr. Guy Cormier, executive director, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, (225) 343-2835, spoke in support of House Bill No. 278.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 278 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 278 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, DeVillier, Farnum, LaCombe, Landry, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Schlegel, White, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 172 by Representative DeVillier**

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 172, which reduces the severance tax rate for oil over a certain period of time and fixes the severance tax rate for oil produced from certain wells at the current rate.

*Representative Beaulieu in the chair.*

Dr. Gregory Upton, interim executive director and associate research professor, Louisiana State University (LSU) Center for Energy Studies (CES), 93 South Quad Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, (318) 715-4734, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 172 and presented *Overview of Mineral Revenues*, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Guy Cormier, executive director, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, (225) 343-2835, spoke in opposition to House Bill No.172.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 172 favorably, to which Representative Willard objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 172 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, DeVillier, Farnum, LaCombe, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schlegel, and White voted yea. Representatives Landry and Willard voted nay.

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

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

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Bishop offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, DeVillier, Farnum, LaCombe, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schlegel, White, and Willard voted yea.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Stuart J. Bishop  
House Committee on Ways and Means