

House Committee on Commerce

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 13, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel, chair of the House Committee on Commerce, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel, chair
Representative Delisha Boyd
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Troy Jude Hebert
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Edmond Jordan
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Jacob Jules Landry
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Dixon Wallace McMakin
Representative Shaun Raphael Mena
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Polly Thomas, vice chair

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Paula P. Davis

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kathryn Vigrass, legislative analyst
Benjamin McArthur, attorney
Sharell Steven, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms
Randall Ike, committee clerk
Nevonda Reed, division director

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Carver in the chair.

House Bill No. 305 by Representative Deshotel

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 305 from May 12, 2025. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 305.

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 305, which provides for the regulation of certain broadband services.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments that were adopted on May 6, 2025 to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Deletes proposed law regarding the power and authority of the Public Service Commission (PSC) over internet service providers and instead inserts that the PSC shall have the authority to enforce only the rules and regulations promulgated by the office of broadband in connection to internet service providers outlined in proposed law.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to reconsider the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were reconsidered by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jacob Landry, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to withdraw the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were withdrawn by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Hebert offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Veneeth Iyengor, Office of Broadband, 1201 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 305.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 305 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 305 was reported by substitute by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Deshotel in the chair.

House Bill No. 85 by Representative Gadberry

Representative Gadberry presented House Bill No. 85, which provides relative to permits for construction.

Bill Pousson, South Central Planning, 38150 Jefferson Xing., Prairieville, LA 70769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 85.

Randy Noel, Louisiana Home Builders Association (LHBA), 600 Laurel Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 85.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to remove provision that any municipality or parish, which issues a permit for construction shall provide, upon request, individual permit data. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 85 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 85 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 17 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 368 by Representative St. Blanc

Representative St. Blanc presented House Bill No. 368, which provides relative to earned wage access services.

Representative St. Blanc offered amendments to:

- (1) Clarify the definition of "provider".
- (2) Prohibit providers from requiring a consumer's credit score from a credit report to determine a consumer's eligibility for earned wage access services.

Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Andrew Welch, Daily Pay, 55 Water St., FL 42, New York, NY 10041, spoke in support of House Bill No. 368.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to:

- (1) Require providers that charge fees for earned wage access services to report certain data to the Office of Financial Institutions.
- (2) Require the Office of Financial Institutions to annually publish the reports from providers in aggregate form to the public.

Scott Jolly, Office of Financial Institutions (OFI), 8660 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 368.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Zach Drucker, EarnIn, 2238 Jones St., San Francisco, CA 94133, spoke for in support of House Bill No. 368.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 368 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 368 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas 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. 257 by Representative St. Blanc

Representative St. Blanc presented House Bill No. 257, which provides relative to receivership of water or wastewater companies.

Representative St. Blanc offered amendments to:

- (1) Change administrative orders to enforceable orders, judgments, or actions.
- (2) Amend the requirements for a bond by a receiver.
- (3) Amend the requirement to dissolve the receivership.
- (4) Add that nothing in proposed law shall prohibit a receiver from purchasing the company put in receivership.

Brandon Frey, PSC, P.O. Box 91154, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 257.

Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add that within 90 days of appointment, the receiver shall submit to the commission and publish in a manner accessible to the affected customers a transition and operational plan.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to report House Bill No. 257 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 257 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

House Bill No. 392 by Representative St. Blanc

Representative St. Blanc presented House Bill No. 392, which provides relative to the Louisiana Underground Utilities and Facilities Damage Prevention Law.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative St. Blanc offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove the definition of "manual probing" and amend the definition for "large project excavation or demolition".
- (2) Clarify that 120 hours of the mark-by-time does not include weekends or holidays.

Emory Belton, Dig Law Advisory Committee, 10602 Hillbrook Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 392.

Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jacob Landry, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to report House Bill No. 392 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 392 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, McCormick, Mena, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. 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 Newell offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, McCormick, Mena, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Daryl Andrew Deshotel
House Committee on Commerce

Date adopted: