

House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 12, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Ryan Bourriaque, chair of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Ryan Bourriaque, chair
Representative Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Jacob Braud
Representative Tehmi Jahi Chassion
Representative Kellee Hennessy Dickerson
Representative Bryan Fontenot, vice chair
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Annie Spell
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Joy Walters
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Steven Jackson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allison Williams, attorney
Jaclyn Champagne, attorney
Darcas Deverteuil, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

Ralph Palmer, sergeant at arms
Donnell Francis, sergeant at arms
Quinn Williams, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 613 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 613, which creates the Iberia Parish Airport Authority.

Representative Bourriaque offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Clarify that the domicile of the district may be changed to any location within the district boundaries or to the seat of any political subdivision partially located within the district, subject to approval of the board.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Bourriaque offered amendments to:

- (1) Specify that upon the approvals of the Iberia Parish Council and the Federal Aviation Administration, the Acadiana Regional Airport and Lemaire Memorial Airport District will be established.
- (2) Authorize the Iberia Parish Council authority to appoint all members of the board and to remove and replace any member by majority vote.
- (3) Require two members to be domiciled in the city of New Iberia and one in the city of Jeanerette.
- (4) Change the quorum requirements for the board from three members to four members.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

Patrick Norris, Airport Commission, New Iberia, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 613.

Lady Fontenette Brown, Iberia Parish District 12, 1402 MLK Dr., Jeanerette, LA 70544, spoke in opposition of House Bill No. 613.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to invoke the Three-Minute Rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

M. Larry Richard, parish president, Iberia Parish Government, 300 Iberia St., New Iberia, LA 70560, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 613.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 613 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 613 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 588 by Representative Mena

Representative Mena presented House Bill No. 588, which provides relative to the Regional Transit Authority.

Representative Bourriaque offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Delete the requirement that the business agent have appointing authority to appoint one local member of the Amalgamated Transit Union of the RTA.
- (3) Add that one union representative from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the United Labor Union, or any other labor union that is formed in the future will represent RTA workers. Further provides for a rotating two-year appointment and will be nominated by the relevant RTA local labor unions.
- (4) Delete present law that included two members of the Louisiana American Federation of Labor and Congress of the Louisiana Industrial Organizations be members of the advisory board.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Moore offered a motion to report House Bill No. 588 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 588 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley 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.

House Bill No. 480 by Representative McCormick

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 480, which provides relative to the authority of the Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission to use the payment in lieu of taxes program. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 480 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 660 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 660, which provides relative to the annual registration tax applicable to trucks and trailers statewide.

Renee Amar, LMTA, 325 Florida, St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 660.

Representative Phelps offered a motion to report House Bill No. 660 favorably, to which Representative Tarver objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 660 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Braud, Chassion, Moore, Phelps, Spell, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Dickerson, Schamerhorn, and Tarver voted nay. Representative Bourriaque abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 3 for information only.

House Bill No. 616 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 616, which authorizes the Port of New Orleans to utilize public private partnerships for certain projects.

Chris Kane, Port of New Orleans, 701 Poydras St., Suite 4500, New Orleans, LA 70131, spoke in support of House Bill No. 616, and provided a handout Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Michael Thomas, chair, Board of Commissioners, Port of Orleans, 640 Main St., Suite C, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 616.

Representative Walters offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Walters offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Moore, Schamerhorn, Spell, and Walters voted yea.

Louis Pomes, St. Bernard Parish Government, 8201 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043, spoke in support of House Bill No. 616.

Donald Bourgeois, St. Bernard Parish Government, 8201 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043, spoke in support of House Bill No. 616.

Susan Bourgeois, secretary, LED, 617 N. 3rd St., 11th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only for House Bill No. 616.

Michael Hecht, GNO, Inc. 1100 Poydras St., Suite 3450, New Orleans, LA 70135, spoke in support of House Bill No. 616.

Greg Russouich, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 616.

Jack Jensen, TCI Trucking, Jensen Companies, 3900 France Road Pkwy., New Orleans, LA 70126, spoke in support of House Bill No 616.

Kristi App, J. Lo. Allen & Co., 1000 Riverbend Dr., Suite L, Saint Rose, LA 70087, spoke in support of House Bill No 616.

Representative Fontenot in the chair.

Mike Fernandez, St. Bernard Resident, 1966 Benjamin St., Arabi, LA 70032, spoke in support of House Bill No 616.

Jennifer Marusak, Ports Association of Louisiana, P.O. Box 82880, Baton Rouge, LA 70884, spoke in support of House Bill No 616.

Chair Bourriaque in the chair.

Representative Mike Bayham, District 103, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616, and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Doris Voitier, St. Bernard Parish School Board, 200 E. St. Bernard Hwy., Chalmette, LA 70043, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Diana Dysart, St. Bernard School Board, 3512 Coriane Ave., Chalmette, LA 70043, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Janet Perez, self, 6535 E. St. Bernard Hwy., Violet, LA 70092, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Fred Everhardt, St. Bernard Gov, 2400 Gina Dr., St. Bernard, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Marion McCloskey, St. Bernard Parish, 3017 Brad Hwy., Meraux, LA 70085, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Millie Harris, St. Bernard Parish School Board, 3217 Cran Drive, Meraux, LA 70075, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Perry Nicosia, St. Bernard School Board, District Attorney, 2005 Serpas Ln., St. Bernard, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Carly Creason, St. Bernard Parish School Board, 3600 Veronica Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Henry D. Carroll, Self & Family, 2208 Nancy Dr., Meraux, LA 70075, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Michael Voss, self, 7500 E. St. Bernard Hwy., Violet, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Walter J. Leger, Jr., Port of New Orleans, 935 Gravier St., Suite 2150, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 616.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report House Bill No. 616 by substitute, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 616 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Chassion, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Spell, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Braud, Phelps, and Schamerhorn voted nay.

Witness cards submitted but individuals who did not speak are as follows: 21 in support, 8 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 633 by Representative Braud

Representative Braud presented House Bill No. 633, which provides relative to the boards of commissioners for the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East and the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank.

Blair DuQuesnay, Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans, 9 Versailles Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 633 and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Ruthie Frierson, Founder, Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans, 150 Broadway St., Apt. 1001, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 633.

Steven Procopio, PAR, 450 Laurel St., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 633.

Representative Braud offered a motion to report House Bill No. 633 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 633 was reported by substitute by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 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 Fontenot offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Ryan Bourriague
House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Date adopted: