

HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting
1998 First Extraordinary Session
April 6, 1998

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative John Travis, Chairman of the House Commerce Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. in Committee Room 1 of the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative John Travis,
Chairman
Representative Pete Schneider,
Vice Chairman
Representative Robert Barton
Representative Dan Flavin
Representative Mickey Frith
Representative Herman Hill
Representative Michael Michot
Representative Arthur Morrell
Representative Edwin Murray
Representative Tank Powell
Representative Diane Winston

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Naomi Farve
Representative Gil Pinac
Representative Sharon Weston

III. STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Cindy Mancuso, Attorney
Billy Gothreaux, Research Analyst
Sandy Painting, Secretary
Ed Cailleateau and Kitty Ruth, Sergeants at Arms

IV. DISCUSSION

Senate Bill No. 101 by Senator Lentini

Senator Lentini appeared before the committee to present Senate Bill No. 101, which provides for inspection of amusement rides and attractions.

Representative Travis offered a technical amendment to Senate Bill No. 101, which would clarify that fees paid for semiannual inspections are paid for inspection certificates. There was no objection and said amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Those members voting yea were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Barton, Flavin, Frith, Hill, Murray, Powell, and Winston.

Senator Lentini stated that Senate Bill No. 101 will set up two types of inspections per year for amusement rides by the amusement ride organizations and the state fire marshal's office.

Mr. V. J. Bella, State Fire Marshal, 5150 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (504) 925-4911, appeared before the committee and stated that everyone in the amusement ride industry supported this legislation.

Representative Frith asked if the inspection fee was per instrument or per inspection.

Mr. Jerry Jones, State Fire Marshal's Office, 5150 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (504) 925-4911, appeared before the committee in response to Representative Frith's question and stated that the inspection fee was per instrument or per amusement ride device.

Representative Winston asked if all costs were borne by the operators or by the towns where amusement rides are stationed.

Mr. Jones stated that the amusement ride operators were responsible for the costs of inspections of the amusement rides.

Representative Winston asked the average cost of an inspection for a fair.

Mr. J. H. Martin, Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals, P. O. Box 15010, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895, (504) 455-3247, appeared before the committee and stated that the inspection cost for each amusement ride is \$20 in addition to the biannual general and in-depth inspections required on a yearly basis.

Representative Flavin made a motion to report Senate Bill No. 101 with amendments. There was no objection to this motion and Senate Bill No. 101 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Barton, Flavin, Frith, Hill, Murray, Powell, and Winston.

House Bill No. 3 by Representative Bruneau

Representative Bruneau appeared before the committee to present House Bill No. 3, which adds a member to the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology to be appointed from the state at large. He stated that this legislation would provide diversity to the board.

Ms. Brandi Bollinger, governor's office, appeared before the committee and stated that a commitment was made by Governor Foster to add a member to the Cosmetology Board. She asked the committee for its support.

Representative Travis stated that there are currently eight members on the board and the number should be increased to an odd number.

Representative Powell stated that the chairman of the board does not vote, therefore creating no chance of a tie vote situation occurring.

Representative Bruneau stated that the chairman of the board had the option and the right to vote at any time, therefore creating the situation of a possible tie vote.

Representative Murray agreed with Representative Bruneau regarding the addition of another member to the board to increase the membership to an odd number in order to prevent tie votes.

Representative Schneider asked if the addition of another member to the Board of Cosmetology would continue to help the board to progress with the improvements of its past problems.

Representative Bruneau stated that he hoped that this legislation would provide an element of fairness by not having almost everyone on the board having ties with one particular entity. He stated that during a previous interim meeting it was brought to light that almost every member of the board was tied to a business located in Representative Powell's district which was known as Neill Corporation, and he felt that this type of influence was unhealthy.

Representative Winston asked how the board members were appointed and for how long.

Representative Bruneau stated that the members serve at the governor's pleasure and that one is appointed from each congressional district and one at large.

Representative Winston asked the Board of Cosmetology be a part of the strategic planning meetings to be held in the next interim.

Representative Travis stated that the Board of Cosmetology would be evaluated at the meeting which covered the strategic planning of the Department of Economic Development.

Mr. Ronald Navaro, Vice Chairman, Louisiana Board of Cosmetology, 108 Camille St., Lafayette, Louisiana, (318) 984-2616, appeared before the committee for informational purposes only.

Representative Murray asked Mr. Navaro if the board had taken a position on this legislation.

Mr. Navaro stated that he was not going to say if the board had taken a position on this legislation. He stated that he felt the board was on the road to making improvements for the industry. He stated that his personal opinion was that now was not the time for making any changes.

Representative Flavin made a motion to defer action on House Bill No. 3.

Representative Schneider made a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 3 favorably. Objection was raised and a roll call vote was taken. This motion failed by a vote of 5 yeas and 6 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Hill, Morrell, and Murray. Those voting nay were Representatives Barton, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Powell, and Winston.

Upon the substitute motion failing, there was no objection to the original motion to defer by Representative Flavin, and action was deferred on House Bill No. 3 by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Schneider, Barton, Flavin, Frith, Hill, Michot, Morrell, Murray, Powell, and Winston.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business discussed.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Travis, Chairman

Date Approved: _____

