

## **HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting  
1998 Regular Session  
May 19, 1998

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

Representative John Travis, Chairman of the House Commerce Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. in Committee Room 1 of the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative John Travis,  
Chairman  
Representative Robert Barton  
Representative Naomi Farve  
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 Pete Schneider,  
Vice Chairman  
Representative Sharon Weston

### **III. STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cindy Mancuso, Attorney  
Billy Gothreaux, Research Analyst  
Sandy Painting, Secretary  
Jerrold Banks and Christian Sparks, Sergeants at Arms

#### IV. DISCUSSION

##### House Resolution No. 8 by Representative Pierre

Representative Pierre appeared before the committee to present House Resolution No. 8, which urges and requests the office of financial institutions to study and make recommendations as to the regulation of the check cashing, rent-to-own, and payday loan industries.

Representative Travis offered an amendment to House Resolution No. 8 on behalf of Representative Pierre which would require the office of financial institutions to report its findings and recommendations to the House Commerce Committee and the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee prior to the 1999 Regular Session. There was no objection to this amendment and it was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Barton, Farve, Flavin, Frith, Murray, Pinac, Powell, and Winston.

Mr. Thomas Neyharr, Louisiana Rental Dealers Association, 2304 Rue St. Martin, Hammond, Louisiana 70403, (504) 674-2458, appeared before the committee in opposition to House Resolution No. 8. He stated that rent-to-own businesses were different from check cashing operations and that the two should not be associated together.

Representative Travis asked Larry Murray if the entities would be studied separately.

Mr. Larry Murray, Commissioner, Office of Financial Institutions, P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804, (504) 925-4661, appeared before the committee and stated that each different entity would be studied separately.

Representative Gautreaux appeared before the committee and stated that the rent-to-own business was greatly misunderstood due to certain consumers never having the need to use this type of business to obtain goods for their homes.

Representative Pinac made a motion to report House Resolution No. 8 with amendments. There was no objection and House Resolution No. 8 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Barton, Farve, Flavin, Frith,

Michot, Murray, Pinac, and Powell.

**House Resolution No. 20 by Representative LeBlanc**

Mr. Lawrence "Tubby" St. Blanc, Public Service Commission, One American Place, Ste. 1630, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70825, (504) 342-1379, appeared before the committee to present the strategic plan of the Department of Public Service which is provided for under House Resolution No. 20. He provided the committee with a brief overview of the Department of Public Service and pointed out changes outlined in the strategic plan (see attached copy).

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 by Representative Downer**

Representative Travis appeared before the committee on behalf of Representative Downer to present House Concurrent Resolution No. 6, which urges state governmental support and cooperation for "Cycle Main Street".

There was no further discussion on House Concurrent Resolution No. 6.

Representative Frith made a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 favorably. There was no objection and House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Barton, Farve, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Murray, Pinac, and Powell.

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 28 by Representative Copelin**

Representative Travis appeared before the committee on behalf of Representative Copelin and made a motion to defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 28, which directs LEDC to study the Capital Companies Tax Credit Program. There was no objection and action was deferred on House Concurrent Resolution No. 28 by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Travis, Barton, Farve, Flavin, Frith, Michot, Murray, Pinac, and Powell.

**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 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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John Travis, Chairman

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_