

# COMMITTEE ON HOUSE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

## Minutes of Meeting 2012 Regular Session May 30, 2012

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Tim Burns, Chairman of the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. in Committee Room 2. The secretary called the roll.

### II. ROLL CALL

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Timothy G. Burns, Chairman  
Taylor F. Barras  
John A. "Johnny" Berthelot  
Stuart J. Bishop  
Jared C. Brossett  
Randal L. Gaines  
Girod Jackson III  
Anthony V. Ligi, Jr.  
Gregory A. Miller  
Stephen E. Pugh

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael E. Danahay, Vice Chairman

#### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

M. Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, Legislative Analyst  
Mark Mahaffey, Attorney  
Shawn O'Brien, Secretary  
Beverly Vincent, Sergeant at Arms  
Jonathon Nunley, Clerk

### III. DISCUSSION

#### **Senate Bill No. 591 by Senator Claitor**

Senate Bill No. 591 authorizes the creation of the Candidates Others PACS Education Trust Interest Credit program. There was no discussion on the bill.

At the request of the author, Representative Burns moved that action be voluntarily deferred on the bill. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Burns, Jackson, Miller, and Pugh voted 6-0 in favor of the motion.

#### **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 89 by Senator Crowe**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 89 requests the Senate and House Governmental Affairs

Committees to study the feasibility of establishing a more expedient transition for local elected officials to take office once elected. Senator Crowe presented the resolution, saying that sheriffs and assessors do not take office until months or an entire year after an election.

Representative Pugh offered a motion that the committee report the measure favorably. There was no objection, and Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Bishop, Brossett, Burns, Jackson, Ligi, Miller, and Pugh voted 9-0 to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 89 favorably.

#### **Senate Bill No. 696 by Senator Walsworth**

Senate Bill No. 696 removes the provision of law requiring a second signature on checks in addition to the Senate president's. The bill was presented by Mr. Jerry Guillot, chief of staff for the Senate.

Representative Burns proposed a motion to report the bill favorably, to which there was no objection. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Bishop, Brossett, Burns, Jackson, Ligi, Miller, and Pugh voted 9-0 to report Senate Bill No. 696 favorably.

#### **Senate Bill No. 226 by Senator Morrish**

Senate Bill No. 226 provides exceptions to the prohibition on a public servant doing business with a person who has a business relationship with the agency of the public servant under certain circumstances. Senator Morrish presented the bill.

At the request of the author, Representative Burns moved that the committee adopt an amendment explained by staff as removing provisions allowing a legal entity in which a member of the parish governing authority of certain parishes has a controlling interest to contract with a public utility company that has entered into a nonexclusive franchise agreement with the parish.

There was no objection to Representative Burns's motion, and Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Bishop, Brossett, Burns, Jackson, Ligi, Miller, and Pugh voted 9-0 to adopt the amendment.

Ms. Kristy Gary, deputy administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 225-219-5600, informed the committee that the board had taken no position on the measure.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion that the bill be reported with amendments, to which Representative Miller objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion was adopted by a vote of 7-2 with Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Bishop, Brossett, Jackson, Ligi, and Pugh voting yea and Representatives Burns and Miller voting nay.

#### **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103 by Senator Donahue**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103 provides for a study of credits, exemptions, and rebates and the corresponding impact on the state budget. Representative Burns presented the study

resolution for the author.

Representative Burns proposed a motion to adopt an amendment relative to the membership of the study committee, providing for the Senate President to appoint two members of the Committee on Finance to serve on the Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs during the interim and for the House Speaker to appoint two members of the Committee on Appropriations to serve on the Committee on Ways and Means during the interim, with the committees meeting jointly to conduct the study.

Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Gaines, Jackson, Ligi, Miller, and Pugh voted without objection, 9-0, to adopt the amendment.

Mr. Rodney Braxton, City of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 225-806-2522; Mr. Ed Parker, AFSCME, 429 Government Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 225-927-2800; Ms. Ashley Herad, Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations, 8281 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 225-929-5266; Ms. Mary Williams, Better Choices for a Better Louisiana Coalition, 8281 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 225-929-5266; Ms. Jennifer Jantz, NAMI Louisiana, 5534 Galeria Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 225-291-6262; Ms. Dawn Collins, One Voice Louisiana, address illegible, 225-312-3238; Mr. Mark Thomas, Mental Health America of Louisiana, 8211 Goodwood, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 225-922-5210; Mr. Jan Moller, Mr. Steven Spires, and Mr. Tim Mathis, Louisiana Budget Project, 8281 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 225-929-5266; Ms. Deonne Bailey, Resources for Independent Living, Inc., 3233 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 225-753-4772; Mr. Jacques Morial and Mr. Edward Ashworth, Health Law Advocates of Louisiana, 7637 Elysian Fields Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, 504-315-5388; Ms. Brittany Howard, Mental Health America of Louisiana, 8211 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 225-978-2177; Ms. Sylvia Pearson, 4937 Avron Blvd, Metairie, Louisiana, 504-908-0027; and Moriba Karamoko, Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition, 228 LeDoux Street, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, submitted witness cards expressing their support for the resolution but did not testify.

Representative Burns offered a motion that the measure be reported with amendments, to which there was no objection. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Gaines, Jackson, Ligi, Miller, and Pugh voted 9-0 to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103 with amendments.

### **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 72 by Senator Erdey**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 72 establishes an advisory group to determine the future best utilization of the former Greenwell Springs Mental Health Hospital facility. Senator Erdey presented the resolution.

At the request of the author, Representative Ligi moved that the committee adopt an amendment to the makeup of the group to include the president of the AFL-CIO. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Gaines, Jackson, Ligi, Miller, and Pugh voted 9-0 to adopt the amendment.

Mr. David LeCerte, deputy secretary, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, Galvez Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 225-219-5000, spoke in favor of the measure.

Representative Ligi proposed a motion to report the resolution with amendments, to which there was no objection. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Bishop, Brossett, Burns, Gaines, Jackson, Ligi, Miller, and Pugh voted 10-0 to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 72 with amendments.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to come before the committee.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Representative Burns thanked the members and staff for its work during the 2012 Regular Session and his first session as chairman.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy G. Burns, Chairman  
Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

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Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_