

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL, PAROCHIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting
2012 Regular Session
April 19, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Girod Jackson III, chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m. in House Committee Room 6 of the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Girod Jackson III,
Chairman
Representative Robert E. Billiot,
Vice Chairman
Representative Austin Badon
Representative Taylor F. Barras
Representative Regina Ashford Barrow
Representative John A. Berthelot
Representative Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Terry R. Brown
Representative Roy Burrell
Representative Michael E. Danahay
Representative Kenneth E. Havard
Representative Dalton Honoré
Representative Barbara Norton
Representative Stephen J. Ortego
Representative Stephen E. Pugh
Representative Clifton R. Richardson
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Jared Brossett

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, Committee Attorney
Valarie Banks, Committee Secretary
David Gauthier, Central Staff Legislative Analyst
E. Anne Dunn, Director

Mattie Franklin, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 335 by Representative Lorusso

Chairman Girod Jackson III stated that House Bill No. 335, which provides for an exemption from occupational license tax in Terrebonne Parish, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

House Bill No. 681 by Representative Leger

Chairman Girod Jackson III stated that House Bill No. 681, which provides relative to energy efficiency or renewable energy improvement loans, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

Ms. Keli Williams, representing the Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association, was present in support of the legislation.

House Bill No. 1103 by Representative Leger

Chairman Girod Jackson III stated that House Bill No. 1103, which provides relative to the Louisiana Sports and Entertainment District, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

House Bill No. 968 by Representative Arnold

Chairman Girod Jackson III stated that House Bill No. 968, which prohibits an unpaid traffic citation that was issued by an automated traffic enforcement system from being sent to a collection agency, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

Present in opposition to the legislation were Mr. Fabian Blache, representing the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 North 10th Street, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3261; Mr. Ty Bromell, representing the Police Jury Association, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-2835, tyb@lpgov.org; and Mr. Mike Cross, representing the Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 774-2985.

House Bill No. 889 by Representative Champagne

Chairman Girod Jackson III stated that House Bill No. 889, which exempts certain businesses from sales and use taxes levied by economic development districts that have tax increment financing authority, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

House Bill No. 890 by Representative Champagne

Chairman Girod Jackson III stated that House Bill No. 890, which repeals provisions that authorize local governmental subdivisions to create certain economic development districts, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

House Bill No. 891 by Representative Champagne

Chairman Girod Jackson III stated that House Bill No. 891, which requires voter approval prior to the creation of certain economic development districts by local governmental subdivisions, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

House Bill No. 1097 by Representative Champagne

Chairman Girod Jackson III stated that House Bill No. 1097, which provides relative to the per diem paid to members of Vermilion Parish Fire Protection District No. 7, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

House Bill No. 242 by Representative Harris

Representative Harris presented House Bill No. 242, which provides relative to the position of deputy chief of police in the city of Alexandria. He presented a letter from Mayor Jacques M. Roy, City of Alexandria, in support of the legislation (Exhibit A).

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 242 was Police Chief Loren Lampert, City of Alexandria, 1000 Bolton Avenue, Alexandria, LA 71301, (318) 446-4000. Present in support of the bill was Mr. Fabian Blache, representing the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 North 10th Street, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3261.

Present to provide information if requested were Mr. Chris Nassif, representing the Louisiana Union of Police, 1332 Lakeridge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA; and Mr. Joshua Peppers, representing the Alexandria Police Officers Association Local 833, 650 McKeithen Drive, Alexandria, LA 71301.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 242 favorably. Without objection, the motion was carried by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

House Bill No. 788 by Representative St. Germain

House Bill No. 788 provides relative to the annexation of property by municipalities and was presented by the author.

Present in support of the bill but declining to speak were Mr. John Gallagher, representing the Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-5001, jgallagher@lma.org; Mr. Ty Bromell, representing the Police Jury Association, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-2835; tyb@lpgov.org; and Mr. Mike Cross, representing the Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 774-2915.

Present to provide information if requested was Mr. Eric Kalivoda, representing the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, P.O. Box 94245, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 379-1200, eric.kalivoda@la.gov.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 788 favorably. There were no objections, and the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place House Bill No. 788 on the Local & Consent Calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays with Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voting yea.

House Bill No. 934 by Representative Ligi

House Bill No. 934, which authorizes Jefferson Parish to create an automobile rental tax district, was presented by the author.

Ms. Jennifer Ansardi, representing Jefferson Parish, P.O. Box 55815, Metairie, LA 70055, (504) 606-7700; and Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the City of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, braxton@sostrategy.com, were present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Mr. Patrick Judge, representing the City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, Room 7604, New Orleans, LA 70112, prjudge@nola.gov, was present and offered information on the bill.

Parish Attorney Deborah Foshee, representing Jefferson Parish, 1221 Elmwood Parkway Boulevard, Jefferson, LA 70123, (504) 736-6300, dfoshee@jeffparish.net, was present to provide information if requested.

Representative Willmott offered a set of amendments that: (1) relative to the creation of an automobile rental tax district, specifies that the governing authority of Jefferson Parish is authorized to create a district by ordinance, and specifies that a district is a political subdivision of the state; (2) requires voter approval prior to the levy of a tax by a district and provides relative to the time for holding a tax election; and (3) adds provisions authorizing the governing authority of Orleans Parish to create a district by ordinance, providing for the boundaries of the district in Orleans, and providing for the use of tax proceeds in Orleans Parish. There was no objection to the amendments, which were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to report House Bill No. 934 with amendments, to which there were no objections. The motion was carried by a vote of 12 yeas and

0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 905 by Representative Edwards

The author presented House Bill No. 905, which creates the St. Helena Parish Elderly Services District.

Representative Edwards presented an "Affidavit of Publication" and accompanying copies of the *St. Helena Echo* newspaper (Exhibit B).

Representative Pugh proposed technical amendments to House Bill No. 905. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention, with Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voting yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 905 with amendments, to which no objection was made and the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Chairman Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place House Bill No. 905 on the Local & Consent Calendar. There were no objections. The motion was carried by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 909 by Representative Barrow

Chairman Girod Jackson III stated that House Bill No. 909, which requires local governing authorities to report the number of traffic citations issued and revenue collected directly to the legislature, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

Present in opposition to the bill were Mr. Mike Cross, representing the Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 774-2915; Mr. Duane Huddleston, representing Shreveport police, 1234 Texas Avenue, Shreveport, LA, (318) 465-5660; and Mr. Fabian Blache, representing the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 North 10th Suite 250, Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3261.

House Bill No. 961 by Representative Barrow

Chairman Girod Jackson III stated that House Bill No. 961, which authorizes parishes to create an automobile rental tax district, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

The following persons were present in support of the legislation: Ms. Jennifer Ansardi, representing Jefferson Parish, P.O. Box 55815, Metairie, LA 70055, (504) 606-7700; Mr. Ty Bromell, representing the Police Jury Association, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-2835; and Mr. Mike Cross, representing the Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 774-2915.

House Bill No. 971 by Representative Barrow

Representative Barrow presented House Bill No. 971, which authorizes East Baton Rouge Parish to create an automobile rental tax district.

Representative Berthelot offered a set of amendments that: (1) relative to the creation of an automobile rental tax district, specifies that the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish is authorized to create a district by ordinance, and specifies that a district is a political subdivision of the state; and (2) requires voter approval prior to the levy of a tax by a district and provides relative to the time for holding a tax election. There was no objection to the amendments, which were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 971 with amendments, to which there were no objections. The motion was carried by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

House Bill No. 924 by Representative Wesley Bishop

The author presented House Bill No. 924, which creates the Downman Road Economic Development District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Burrell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 924 favorably. Without objection, the motion was carried by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place House Bill No. 924 on the Local & Consent Calendar, to which no objections were made and the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays with Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voting yea.

House Bill No. 1051 by Representative Patricia Smith

House Bill No. 1051, which provides relative to the Downtown Development District of the city of Baton Rouge, was presented by the author.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1051 favorably. There were no objections. The motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention with Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voting yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to place House Bill No. 1051 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion was carried by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Richardson, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

House Bill No. 1117 by Representative Billiot

The author presented House Bill No. 1117, which provides relative to the enforcement of certain liens.

Ms. Michelle Schubert, P.O. Box 43, Norco, LA 70079, was present and provided information relative to House Bill No. 1117.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1117 favorably, to which no one objected. The motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Brown, Burrell, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place House Bill No. 1117 on the Local & Consent calendar. There were no objections and the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays with Representatives Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Brown, Burrell, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, Willmott.

House Bill No. 1105 by Representative Katrina Jackson

At the request of the author, Representative Barrow presented House Bill No. 1105, which authorizes certain parish governing authorities to pay a commissioner's fee to members of the governing board of any hospital service district located in the parish.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1105 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Brown, Havard, Honoré, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place House Bill No. 1105 on the Local & Consent Calendar. The motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays with Representatives Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Brown, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Norton, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voting yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Girod Jackson III, Chairman

Date Approved: