

# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL, PAROCHIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting  
2012 Regular Session  
May 17, 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 1:24 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 Taylor F. Barras  
Representative John A. Berthelot  
Representative Wesley T. Bishop  
Representative Jared Brossett  
Representative Terry R. Brown  
Representative Roy Burrell  
Representative Michael E. Danahay  
Representative Kenneth E. Havard  
Representative Dalton Honoré  
Representative Stephen J. Ortego  
Representative Stephen E. Pugh  
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Austin Badon  
Representative Regina Ashford Barrow  
Representative Barbara Norton

### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tina Righteous, Committee Attorney  
Valarie Banks, Committee Secretary  
Arletha Penn, Committee Clerk  
David Gauthier, Central Staff Legislative Analyst  
Bryan Vincent, Director  
E. Anne Dunn, Director

Mattie Franklin, Sergeant at Arms  
Amy Robinson, Sergeant at Arms

### III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

#### **Senate Bill No. 677 by Senator Morrell**

Senator Morrell presented Senate Bill No. 677, which provides relative to the New Orleans Regional Business Park. He distributed to members a letter from U.S. Congressman Cedric Richmond, dated April 3, 2012, in favor of the legislation (Exhibit A).

Representative Billiot offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 677 that:

- (1) Changed the district's boundaries.
- (2) Relative to the district's board, increased the membership from 11 to 13; changed the board appointment process and board membership by removing appointments granted to the Vietnamese Initiatives in Economic Training and the East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission; added provisions that require the mayor to make two additional appointments from a list of nominations submitted by those entities and additionally required (relative to his third appointment) that he appoint a member from the city of New Orleans at large; added as members of the board, the president/chief executive officer of the Port of New Orleans or his designee and the chairman of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce or his designee; provided for the termination of terms of board members serving on the effective date of proposed law.
- (3) Added provisions that authorize the district to implement sales tax increment financing as provided in present law (R.S. 33:9038.34), provide for the use of tax increment proceeds, and provide procedures for submitting projects to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and State Bond Commission for approval of the dedication of state sales tax increments.

There were no objections to the amendments, which were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, and Pugh voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 677 with amendments, to which no objection was made. The motion was carried by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention with Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, and Pugh voting yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

#### **Senate Bill No. 564 by Senator Gallot**

Senator Gallot presented Senate Bill No. 564, which creates the Grambling Legends Square Taxing District within Lincoln Parish.

Representative Burrell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 564 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, and Pugh voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 564 on the Local & Consent Calendar. There was no objection. The motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, and Pugh voted yea.

### **Senate Bill No. 725 by Senator Gallot**

Senator Gallot presented Senate Bill No. 725, which provides for inclusion of certain areas of incorporated municipalities into a parishwide economic and industrial development district wherein certain unincorporated areas are excluded.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 725 favorably, to which no one objected, and the motion was carried by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention with Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, and Pugh voting yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 725 on the Local & Consent Calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays with Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, and Pugh voting yea.

### **House Bill No. 906 by Representative Gaines**

The author presented House Bill No. 906, which provides relative to the membership of the zoning board of adjustment in certain parishes.

Representative Girod Jackson III proposed amendments to House Bill No. 906 that changed the number of members of the zoning board of adjustment in parishes covered by proposed law from nine to seven. There were no objections to the amendments, which were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Mr. Chris Guidry, representing St. John Parish (no address given), (504) 415-2137, was present in support of the legislation, but did not wish to speak.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to report House Bill No. 906 with amendments, to which no one objected, and the motion was carried by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

**Senate Bill No. 615 by Senator Appel**

Senator Appel presented Senate Bill No. 615, which provides relative to the records and subpoena powers of certain local ethics entities.

Ms. Suzanne Wisdom, representing the office of Inspector General, 525 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA, (504) 681-3200, was present in support of the bill to provide information, if requested.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 615 favorably, and without objection, the motion was carried by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 615 on the Local and Consent Calendar, to which no objection was made. The motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays with Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voting yea.

**Senate Bill No. 183 by Senator Appel**

Senate Bill No. 183 prohibits local governing authorities from setting certain height limits on amateur radio antennas.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 183 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 183 on the Local and Consent Calendar, to which no one objected, and the motion was carried by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays with Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voting yea.

**Senate Bill No. 730 by Senator Thompson**

At the request of Senator Thompson, Representative Anders presented Senate Bill No. 730, which creates the Bunches Bend Protection District for the purpose of repairing, improving, and maintaining the Wilson Point Levee System in the Bunches Bend area.

Mr. Bob Baumann, representing Columbia Gulf, 616 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 328-0330, was present in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 730 favorably. There were no objections. The motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 730 on the Local and Consent Calendar. Without objection, the motion was carried by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays with Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voting yea.

### **Senate Bill No. 714 by Senator Broome**

Senate Bill No. 714 provides relative to the Louisiana Housing Corporation Act and was presented by Ms. Marla Y. Newman, representing the Louisiana Housing Alliance, 412 North Fourth Street, Suite 102, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0041, at the request of the author.

Mr. E. Keith Cunningham, representing the Louisiana Housing Corporation, 2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-8700, was present to provide information, if requested.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 714 favorably, to which no objections were made and the motion was carried by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 714 on the Local and Consent Calendar, to which no objections were made and the motion was carried by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

### **Senate Bill No. 653 by Senator Mills**

On behalf of the author, Representative Huval presented Senate Bill No. 653, which provides for the use of proceeds of a sales tax district in Breaux Bridge.

Representative Ortego offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 653 favorably. Without objection, the motion was carried by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 653 on the Local & Consent Calendar. There was no objection. The motion was carried by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays with Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Girod Jackson III, Pugh, and Willmott voting yea.

**Senate Bill No. 351 by Senator Murray**

At the request of Senator Murray, Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the City of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166, presented Senate Bill No. 351, which authorizes the parishes of Orleans and Jefferson to establish an automobile rental tax district and to levy an automobile rental tax not to exceed three percent beginning July 1, 2012.

Representative Danahay offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 351 that added provisions authorizing the governing authority of Calcasieu Parish to create a district by ordinance, providing for the boundaries of the district in Calcasieu Parish, and providing for the use of tax proceeds in Calcasieu Parish. There were no objections to the amendments, which were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Mr. Nicholas Felton, president of the New Orleans Fire Fighters, 3520 General De Gaulle Drive, New Orleans, LA 70114, (504) 366-8564, was present in support of the legislation and to provide information if requested.

Representative Brossett offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 351 with amendments, and without objection, the motion was carried by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention with Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voting yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

**Senate Bill No. 683 by Senator Gary Smith**

Senate Bill No. 683 requires a request from the Sunset Drainage District board of commissioners before the St. Charles Parish Council may begin the process for becoming the district's governing authority. Senator Gary Smith presented correspondence from Mr. Richard E. Bordner, vice president of the Sunset Drainage District Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 1421, Paradis, LA 70080, (985) 758-1819, in favor of the legislation (Exhibit B).

Present in support of the legislation but declining to speak were Councilman Paul Hogan, representing District IV, St. Charles Parish, P.O. Box 302, Hahnville, LA 70057, (504) 615-4862; and Mr. Chris Guidry, representing St. Charles Parish (no address given), (504) 415-2137.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 683 favorably. There were no objections, and the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 683 on the Local and Consent Calendar, to which no objections were made and the motion was carried by a vote of

14 yeas and 0 nays with Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voting yea.

#### **Senate Bill No. 405 by Senator Buffington**

On behalf of Senator Buffington, Fire Chief Mark Stewart, representing the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, 14517 Highway 73, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 673-6663, presented Senate Bill No. 405, which creates the position of chief of administration of fire department.

Mr. Chad Major, representing the Louisiana Professional Fire Fighters Association, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 572-8483, was present to provide information if requested.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 405 favorably. Without objection, the motion was carried by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea. Chairman Girod Jackson III abstained.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 405 on the Local and Consent Calendar. There were no objections. The motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

#### **Senate Bill No. 589 by Senator LaFleur**

On behalf of the author, Chairman Girod Jackson III presented Senate Bill No. 589, which provides relative to the Evangeline-Ville Platte Recreation District.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 589 favorably, to which no objections were made and the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays with Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voting yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 589 on the Local and Consent Calendar. Without objection, the motion was carried by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honoré, Girod Jackson III, Ortego, Pugh, and Willmott voted 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 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Girod Jackson III, Chairman

Date Approved: