

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Minutes of Meeting
2012 Regular Session
Monday, March 19, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Joel C. Robideaux, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. in House Committee Room 6 of the State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Representative Joel C. Robideaux, Chairman
Representative Patrick C. Williams, Vice Chairman
Representative Taylor F. Barras
Representative Regina Ashford Barrow
Representative Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Christopher Broadwater
Representative Richard T. Burford
Representative Michael E. Danahay
Representative Mickey J. Guillory
Representative Lowell C. Hazel
Representative Frank A. Hoffmann
Representative Robert A. Johnson
Representative Eddie J. Lambert
Representative Nick Lorusso
Representative Harold L. Ritchie
Representative Major Thibaut
Representative Lenar L. Whitney
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

Members Absent:

Representative Bryan Adams

Staff Members Present:

Ms. Alison Pryor, Committee Attorney
Ms. Elise Read, Committee Analyst
Ms. Karen Stephens, Committee Secretary
Ms. Joyce Anthony, Sergeant at Arms
Ms. Mattie Franklin, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 898 by Representative Robideaux

On behalf of Representative Robideaux, Mr. Jason DeCuir, chief of staff of the Department of Revenue (DOR), presented House Bill No. 898, which would require all withholding tax returns to be filed quarterly.

Representative Robideaux offered a set of technical amendments and a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Barras, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

There was no further discussion of the bill.

Representative Robideaux offered a motion to report House Bill No. 898 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 898 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Barras, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

Present to provide information was Mr. Jason DeCuir, chief of staff of the DOR, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-4059.

House Bill No. 490 by Representative Robideaux

On behalf of Representative Robideaux, Mr. Jason DeCuir, chief of staff of the Department of Revenue (DOR), presented House Bill No. 490, which would provide for the uniform administration of donations designated on income tax returns. He provided a two-page summary entitled "Current Donation Check-Offs on Louisiana Individual Income Tax Return" (see Exhibit "A") to the committee.

Representative Robideaux offered a set of amendments to change the distribution schedule from March of each year to quarterly. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

There was no further discussion of the bill.

Representative Robideaux offered a motion to report House Bill No. 490 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 490 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

Present to provide information were Mr. Jason DeCuir (Chief of Staff) and Ms. Shone Pierre, representing the DOR, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-4059.

House Bill No. 300 by Representative Leger

On behalf of Representative Leger, Mr. David Tatman and General Russell Honoré presented House Bill No. 300, which would authorize the addition of a donation to the American Red Cross as a "check off" on the individual income tax return form. They provided an information folder from the American Red Cross to the committee. (see Exhibit "B")

Representative Robideaux offered a set of amendments to delete the requirement that the treasurer remit the balance of monies in the fund to the American Red Cross every three months and to add a provision for the uniform administration and disbursement of monies donated on tax returns by the secretary of the Department of Revenue (DOR). He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

There was no further discussion of the bill.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report House Bill No. 300 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 300 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

Present to speak in support were Ms. Karen Eddlemon, General Russell Honoré, Mayor James Petitjean, and Mr. David Tatman, representing the American Red Cross, 4655 Sherwood Common Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 291-4533.

A copy of the witness cards for individuals (who were present but did not testify) in support of, in opposition to, and to provide information on the bill is attached. (see Exhibit "C")

House Bill No. 650 by Representative Patrick Williams

Representative Patrick Williams presented House Bill No. 650, which would create an individual income tax return checkoff for donations to the establishment and operation of a center of excellence for autism spectrum disorder.

Representative Robideaux offered a set of amendments to make technical changes to the title; to change the disbursement of donated monies from deposit into the "Center of Excellence for Autism Spectrum Disorder Fund" to the "Odyssey Foundation for the Arts, LLC" for purposes of the Center for Excellence in Autism Spectrum Disorder; and to specify that the donation option be listed on the tax return as "Center of Excellence for Autism Spectrum Disorder". He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

There was no further discussion of the bill.

Representative Patrick Williams offered a motion to report House Bill No. 650 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 650 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Barrow offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, to which there was no objection. The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel C. Robideaux, Chairman

Date approved: _____