

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Minutes of Meeting
2012 Regular Session
Tuesday, March 20, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Joel C. Robideaux, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 1:36 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 Bryan Adams
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:

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
Ms. Amy Robinson, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Robideaux announced that action on House Bill Nos. 739 and 754 was voluntarily deferred.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 by Representative Moreno

Representative Moreno presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 2, which would urge and request the Louisiana Tax Commission to study and make recommendations relative to the practicality and feasibility of establishing a statewide homestead exemption database.

There was no further discussion of the resolution.

Representative Johnson offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 favorably, to which there was no objection. House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

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 resolution is attached. (see Exhibit "A")

House Bill No. 783 by Representative Fannin

Representative Fannin presented House Bill No. 783, which would authorize the issuance of bonds secured by funds in the State Highway Improvement Fund.

Representative Robideaux offered a set of technical amendments and 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 Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Danahay, 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. 783 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 783 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

Present to provide information were Ms. Sherri LeBas, secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), P.O. Box 94245, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 379-1200 and Ms. Meredith Hathorn, representing Foley & Judell, L.L.P., 301 Main Street, Suite 1950, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 153-7596.

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 "B")

House Bill No. 302 by Representative Dixon

Representative Dixon presented House Bill No. 302, which would authorize the Rapides Parish tax collector to accept quarterly payments of estimated property taxes.

Representative Broadwater offered a set of amendments to add the notice recitation; and a requirement that the collector reconcile advance payments made with the tax debtor's tax bill and show the advance payments as a credit on the bill. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

There was no further discussion of the bill.

Representative Hazel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 302 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 302 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

Present to speak in support was Ms. Rhonda Reap-Curiel, representing the CENCOR Consulting Group, L.L.C., P.O. Bo 12096, Alexandria, LA 71315, (318) 308-9921.

House Bill No. 635 by Representative Barrow

Representative Barrow presented House Bill No. 635, which would authorize the Department of Revenue to make tax refund payments by means of a debit card at the option of the taxpayer

Representative Barrow offered a set of technical amendments and 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 Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop,

Broadwater, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, 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. 635 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 635 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

House Bill No. 835 by Representative Miller

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 835, which would provide that the State Bond Commission establish an online database for posting notices for bond validation suits.

There was no further discussion of the bill.

Representative Robideaux offered a motion to report House Bill No. 835 favorably, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 835 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Guillory, Hazel, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

Present to provide information was Mr. Jim Napper, executive counsel to the State Treasurer, P.O. Box 44154, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-0029.

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")

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Whitney offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, to which there was no objection. The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel C. Robideaux

Date approved: _____