

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Minutes of Meeting
2012 Regular Session
Monday, May 21, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Joel C. Robideaux, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 9:52 a.m. in House Committee Room 6 of the State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll and a quorum was established.

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
Mr. Riley Saunders, Clerk
Ms. Amy Robinson, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 350 by Senator Murray

Senator Murray presented Senate Bill No. 350, which would authorize the levy and collection of a 3% local tax on the gross proceeds derived from the lease or rental of an automobile pursuant to an automobile rental contract in any parish in which collection of the tax is approved by the registered voters of the parish, and would provide for the allocation of tax revenues in certain parishes.

Representative Patrick Williams offered a set of amendments to remove Caddo Parish from 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 16 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, and Patrick Williams.

Representative Danahay offered a set of amendments to add the division of tax proceeds for Calcasieu Parish. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, and Patrick Williams.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 350 with amendments, to which there was no objection. The bill was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

Present to speak in opposition was Mr. Bill Cooksey, representing Mayor Cedric Glover of the city of Shreveport, 5103 Hollywood Avenue, Suite 300, Shreveport, LA 71109, (318) 673-5370.

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 "A")

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103 by Senator Donahue

Senator Murray presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103 for Senator Donahue, which would provide for a study of credits, exemption, and rebates and the corresponding impact on the state budget.

There was no further discussion on the resolution.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103 favorably, to which there was no objection. The resolution was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, 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 bill is attached. (see Exhibit "B")

Senate Bill No. 680 by Senator Erdey

Senator Erdey presented Senate Bill No. 680, which would remove the authority to appoint a secretary from the Louisiana Tax Commission.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Thibaut offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 680 favorably, to which there was no objection. The bill was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, and Patrick Williams.

Present to provide information was Mr. Jonathan Ringo, representing the Louisiana Tax Commission, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

Senate Bill No. 337 by Senator Amedee

Representative Lambert presented Senate Bill No. 337 for Senator Amedee, a constitutional amendment which would provide for the property tax exemption for certain disabled veterans to apply to the spouses of those veterans if the veterans passed away prior to the enactment of the exemption.

Representative Lambert offered a set of amendments to make technical changes to the ballot language. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 337 with amendments, to which there was no objection. The bill was reported with amendments by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

Senate Bill No. 361 by Senator Morrell

Representative Wesley Bishop presented Senate Bill No. 361 for Senator Morrell, which would provide relative to 9-1-1 fees for the Orleans Communication District. The set of amendments previously adopted by the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial, and Cultural Affairs were distributed and explained to the members. Those amendments changed the dollar amount from \$1.89 to \$2.00 per residential access line and from \$3.38 to \$3.00 per commercial access line; and provided for a \$2.00 per month residential broadband connection and a \$3.00 per month commercial broadband connection.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a set of amendments to clarify the election language. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Guillory, Hazel, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Ritchie, Robideaux, Thibaut, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 361 with amendments, to which Representative Robideaux objected. The motion to report the bill with amendments failed by a vote of 7 yeas and 10 nays. Those voting yeas were Representatives Adams, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Johnson, Lorusso, Thibaut, and Patrick Williams. Representatives Barras, Burford, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Ritchie, Robideaux, Whitney, and Willmott voted nay.

Present to speak in support was Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the city of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166.

Present to speak in opposition were Mr. Rob Rieger, representing T-Mobile, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 336-5200; and Mr. Duane Cowart, representing Verizon Wireless, 10935 Perkins Road, Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 819-9945.

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")

Senate Bill No. 397 by Senator Gallot

Mr. Chris Young presented Senate Bill No. 397 for Senator Murray, which would provide relative to the cancellation of an assessment for closed and inactive businesses.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Hoffmann offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 397 favorably, to which there was no objection. The bill was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Burford, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Lorusso, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

Present to speak in support was Mr. Chris Young, representing Arcon Information Systems, 546 North Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 346-6789.

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 "D")

Representative Robideaux announced that action on Senate Bill No. 605 was voluntarily deferred.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel C. Robideaux, Chairman

Date approved: _____