

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Minutes of Meeting
2012 Regular Session
Tuesday, May 29, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Joel C. Robideaux, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 11:24 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 Nick Lorusso
Representative Major Thibaut
Representative Lenar L. Whitney
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

Members Absent:

Representative Eddie J. Lambert
Representative Harold L. Ritchie

Staff Members Present:

Ms. Alison Pryor, Committee Attorney
Ms. Elise Read, Committee Analyst
Ms. Karen Stephens, Committee Secretary
Ms. Amy Robinson, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Discussion of legislation opened with a presentation of Senate Bill 351 by Mr. Rodney Braxton for Senator Murray. Pending the drafting of proposed amendments, further discussion of the bill was postponed until the end of the meeting.

Senate Bill No. 361 by Senator Morrell

Senator Morrell presented Senate Bill No. 361, which would provide relative to 9-1-1 fees for the Orleans Communication District. The bill was presented to the committee on May 21, 2012, and a motion to report the bill with amendments failed by a vote of 7 yeas and 10 nays. The set of amendments to clarify the election language, which were offered at that meeting by Representative Wesley Bishop, were distributed again to the members. The set of amendments previously adopted by the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial, and Cultural Affairs were also distributed 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 Thibaut offered a set of amendments to dedicate the proceeds to the Orleans Communication District. 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 Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lorusso, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, and Patrick Williams.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 361 with amendments, to which Representative Robideaux objected. The bill was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 2 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lorusso, Thibaut, Whitney, and Willmott. Representatives Robideaux and Patrick Williams voted nay.

Present to speak in support were Mr. Rodney Braxton, Mr. Allen Square, Mr. Charles Parent, and Chief Ronald Serpas, representing the city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-4900.

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 "A")

Senate Bill No. 605 by Senator Gallot

Mr. Chris Young presented Senate Bill No. 605 for Senator Gallot, which would provide for procedures and notifications required for tax sales.

Representative Barras offered a set of amendments to strengthen the presale notification process; reduce the number of post sale notifications to one; and added language to allow a tax-sale purchaser to send the notices, 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, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

Representative Barras offered a set of amendments to remove 35 parishes from the bill, to which Representative Thibaut objected. The motion to adopt the amendments failed by a vote of 7 yeas and 10 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Barras, Burford, Danahay, Hazel, Johnson, Robideaux, and Willmott. Representatives Adams, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Guillory, Hoffmann, Lorusso, Thibaut, Whitney, and Willmott voted nay.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Adams offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 605 with amendments, to which there was no objection. The bill was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lorusso, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

Present to provide information were Mr. David Boneno, representing the Louisiana Bankers Association, 5555 Bankers Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 387-3282; Mr. Glenn Morris, 348 LSU Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, (225) 344-0532; and Mr. Marshall Grodner, representing the Law Institute, One American Place, Floor 14, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 342-3651.

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 "B")

Senate Bill No. 351 by Senator Murray

Discussion resumed with Mr. Rodney Braxton presenting Senate Bill No. 351 for Senator Murray, which would authorize Orleans and Jefferson Parishes to establish an automobile rental tax district and to levy an automobile rental tax not to exceed 3%, beginning July 1, 2012.

Representative Willmott offered a set of amendments to clarify the distribution of taxes within Jefferson 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, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lorusso, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 351 with amendments, to which there was no objection. The bill was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Those voting yea were Representatives Adams, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lorusso, Robideaux, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott.

Present to provide information were Ms. Rubye Noble and Ms. Liz Lambert, representing the Jefferson Parish Legislative Delegation, P.O. Box 44434, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-0357.

Present to speak in support was Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-4900.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel C. Robideaux, Chairman

Date approved: _____