

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2013 Regular Session
April 25, 2013

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 11:20 a.m. in Room 6, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Girod Jackson III, Chairman
Representative Austin J. Badon, Jr.
Representative Taylor F. Barras
Representative Regina Ashford Barrow
Representative John A. Berthelot
Representative Robert E. Billiot, Vice Chair
Representative Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Jared C. Brossett
Representative Terry R. Brown
Representative Roy A. Burrell
Representative Michael E. Danahay
Representative Kenneth E. Havard
Representative Dalton W. Honoré
Representative Stephen J. Ortego
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Stephen E. Pugh

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Tina Righteous, Committee Attorney
Valarie Banks, Committee Secretary
David Gauthier, Central Staff Legislative Analyst
R. Jared Evans, Central Staff Attorney

Mattie Franklin, Sergeant at Arms
Gloria Leonard, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 383 by Representative Lopinto

Representative Lopinto presented House Bill No. 383, which provides relative to the lease of a hospital by a Jefferson Parish hospital service district. Representative Lopinto presented Resolution No. 120425 from the Jefferson Parish Council (Exhibit A) in support of House Bill No. 383, along with a Jefferson Parish Legislative Delegation Memorandum (Exhibit B) in support of the bill.

Submitting witness cards in support of the legislation but declining to speak were Mr. Taslin Alfonzo, representing West Jefferson Medical Center, 1101 Medical Center Boulevard, Marrero, LA 70072, (504) 349-1130; Ms. Jennifer Ansardi, representing Jefferson Parish, P.O. Box 55815, Metairie, LA 70055, (504) 606-7700; Ms. Nancy Cassagne, representing West Jefferson Medical Center, 1101 Medical Center Boulevard, Marrero, LA, (504) 349-1102; Mr. Clark Cossé, representing the Louisiana Housing Authority, 9521 Brookline, Baton Rouge, LA (225) 928-0026; Mr. Chris Coulon, representing East Jefferson General Hospital, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 336-5200; Ms. Valerie Englade, representing East Jefferson General Hospital, 420 Houma Boulevard, Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 454-5240; Mr. Kevin Hayes, representing Adams and Reese, LLP, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 336-5200; Ms. Jennifer McMahon, representing the Louisiana Hospital Association, (225) 892-8383; and Dr. Mark Peters, representing East Jefferson General Hospital, 4100 Houma Boulevard, Metairie, LA, (504) 454-4020.

Submitting witness cards to provide information if requested was Ms. Liz Lambert, representing Jefferson Parish, 1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Jefferson, LA, (504) 786-6300.

Representative Billiot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 383 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 325 by Representative St. Germain

Representative St. Germain presented House Bill No. 325, which authorizes the imposition of an additional sales and use tax by the governing authority of Iberville Parish.

Mr. Randall Dunn, chief financial officer of Iberville Parish, P.O. Box 389, Plaquemine, LA 70765, (225) 687-5160, spoke in support of the bill.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to report House Bill No. 325 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place House Bill No. 325 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 288 by Representative LeBas

Representative LeBas presented House Bill No. 288, which provides for the board of commissioners of the Ward 5 Fire Protection District of the Parish of Evangeline.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to report House Bill No. 288 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place House Bill No. 288 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 339 by Representative Berthelot

Representative Berthelot presented House Bill No. 339, which allows the use of public funds for length of service awards programs established by fire protection districts, municipal fire departments, or volunteer fire departments for volunteer firefighters.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a set of amendments to specify that the length of service awards program is not a vested right, does not entitle the recipient to any other benefits, and may be discontinued at any time. Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Submitting witness cards in support of the legislation but declining to speak were Mr. Dan Frazier, representing Ft. Pike Volunteer Fire Department, 34012 Stanley Road, Slidell, LA 70460; Mr. Barry Labourdette, 23924 Chef Menteur Highway, New Orleans, LA 70128, (504) 905-5008; State Representative Karen St. Germain, Louisiana District 60; Chief Charles Schmalz, representing Ft. Pike Volunteer Fire Department, 4525 Schmaltz Drive, New Orleans, LA 70129, (504) 982-0167; Mr. Mark Stewart, representing Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, 14517 Highway 73, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 673-6663; and Mr. Boyd Westbrook, representing Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, 6035 Hagerstown Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 279-1364.

Submitting witness cards to provide information if requested was Fire Marshal Butch Browning, representing the state fire marshal's office, 8181 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 805-0803.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 339 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 382 by Representative Berthelot

Representative Berthelot presented House Bill No. 382, which creates a Volunteer Firefighter's Tuition Reimbursement program. Representative Berthelot presented an email communication (Exhibit C) in support of House Bill No. 382 from Mr. Paul Gilmore, (985) 513-9464.

Representative Berthelot offered a set of amendments to:

- (1) Specify that the board is placed within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections under the provisions of the Executive Reorganization Act and retains all of the powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities as provided in proposed law.
- (2) Authorize rather than required the state to reimburse eligible volunteer firefighters from the fund established by proposed law.
- (3) Remove provisions that authorize the reimbursement of board members for expenses.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Submitting witness cards in support of the legislation but not wishing to speak were Mr. Dan Frazier, representing the Ft. Pike Volunteer Fire Department, 34012 Stanley Road, Slidell, LA 70460; Mr. Barry Labourdette, 23924 Chef Menteur Highway, New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 905-5006; Chief G.O. Schmalz, representing the Ft. Pike Volunteer Fire Department, 4525 Schmaltz Drive, New Orleans, LA 70129, (504) 988-0167; Mr. Mark Stewart, representing the Louisiana Fire Chiefs' Association, 14517 Highway 73, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 673-6667; and Mr. Boyd Westbrook, representing the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, 6035 Hagerstown Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 279-1364.

Submitting witness cards to provide information if requested was Fire Marshal Butch Browning, representing the state fire marshal's office, 8181 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 806-0803.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 382 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 326 by Representative Barras

Representative Barras presented House Bill No. 326, which authorizes the city of Youngsville to levy a hotel occupancy tax. Representative Barras presented Resolution No. 2013-02 from city of Youngsville Mayor Wilson B. Viator, Jr. (Exhibit D), in support of House Bill No. 326.

Submitting witness cards in support of the bill was Mr. Josh Borill, representing the city of Youngsville, 1200 Camellia Boulevard, Lafayette, LA.

Representative Barras offered a motion to report House Bill No. 326 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place House Bill No. 326 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 180 by Representative Brown

Representative Brown presented House Bill No. 180, which provides relative to abolition of the position of police chief in the village of Goldonna. Representative Brown presented a resolution from the town council for the village of Goldonna (Exhibit E) in support of House Bill No. 180.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered technical amendments to the bill. Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 180 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III,

Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 232 by Representative Brown

Representative Brown presented House Bill No. 232, which increases the maximum hotel occupancy tax that the Grant Parish Tourist Commission is authorized to levy. Representative Brown presented Resolution No. 05-2013 from the Grant Parish Police Jury (Exhibit F) in support of House Bill No. 232.

Representative Brown offered a set of amendments to change the proposed maximum hotel tax from 12% to 8%. Representative Brown offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Mr. Darrell Glascock, representing the Grant Parish Police Jury, Colfax, LA, (318) 640-6677, submitted a witness card in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 232 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 605 by Representative Wesley Bishop

Representative Wesley Bishop presented House Bill No. 605, which provides relative to the boundaries of the Gentilly Development District.

Representative Brossett offered a motion to report House Bill No. 605 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place House Bill No. 605 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 658 by Representative James

At the request of Representative James, Representative Barrow presented House Bill No. 658, which creates the Sherwood Forest Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report House Bill No. 658 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place House Bill No. 658 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 260 by Representative Alfred Williams

At the request of Representative Alfred Williams, Representative Barrow presented House Bill No. 260, which creates the Goodwood Homesites Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report House Bill No. 260 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place House Bill No. 260 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 287 by Representative Danahay

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 287, which increases the maximum per diem authorized to be paid to fire protection district board members in Calcasieu Parish.

Representative Billiot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 287 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to place House Bill No. 287 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 128 by Representative Jones

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 128, which provides for survivors benefits for tribal police officers and firemen.

Submitting witness cards in support of the bill but declining to speak were Mr. Bud Courson, representing the Tunica Biloxi Tribe, 453 Lafayette Street Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 346-6900; Mr. Dan Frazier, 34012 Stanley Road, Slidell, LA 70460; Mr. Barry Labourdette, 23924 Chef Menteur Highway, New Orleans, LA; Mr. Jim Nickel, representing the Tunica Biloxi Tribe, 453 Lafayette Street Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 346-6900; Chief Charles Schmalz, representing Ft. Pike Volunteer Fire Department, 4525 Schmaltz Drive, New Orleans, LA 70127, (504) 982-6127; State Representative Karen St. Germain, Louisiana District 60; Mr. Mark Stewart, representing the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, 14517 Highway 73, Prairieville, LA 70169, (225) 673-6663; and Mr. Boyd Westbrook, representing the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, 6035 Hagerstown Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 279-1364.

Representative Ortego offered a motion to report House Bill No. 128 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place House Bill No. 128 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 106 by Representative Dove

At the request of Representative Dove, Representative Billiot presented House Bill No. 106, which authorizes the Houma Area Convention and Visitors Bureau to levy an additional hotel occupancy tax. Representative Billiot presented a letter from Terrebonne Parish President Michael H. Claudet (Exhibit G) in favor of House Bill No. 106.

Representative Billiot offered technical amendments. Representative Billiot offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Billiot offered amendments to make the additional hotel tax subject to voter approval by the electors of Terrebonne Parish. Representative Billiot offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Mr. Eric Sunstrom, representing the Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 90106, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 757-9908, submitted a witness card in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Billiot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 106 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 554 by Representative Garofalo

Representative Garofalo presented House Bill No. 554, which creates the Fort Pike Fire Protection District in Orleans Parish.

Submitted a witness card in support of the bill but declining to speak were State Representative Karen St. Germain, Louisiana District No. 60; Mr. Mark Stewart, representing the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, 14517 Highway 73, Prairieville, LA 70169, (225) 673-6663; and Mr. Boyd Westbrook, representing the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, 6035 Hagerstown Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 279-1364.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 554 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place House Bill No. 554 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 179 by Representative Burns

Chairman Girod Jackson III announced that House Bill No. 179, which authorizes the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau to levy an additional hotel occupancy tax within the jurisdiction of the bureau, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

Prior to the meeting, Representative Burns had forwarded copies of emails from several of his constituents who expressed their support of House Bill No. 179 (Exhibit H).

Testifying against the bill were Mr. Wade Duty, representing the Louisiana Casino Association, P.O. Box 3801, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-0037; Mr. Randy Haynie, representing the Horseshoe Casino, (225) 337-4143; Mr. Bill Langkopp, representing the Sabine-Bossier Hotel Association, 201 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70120, (504) 525-9326; and Mr. Tom McPherson, representing Boyd Gaming and Sam's Town Shreveport, 12550 Brookshire Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 272-1669.

House Bill No. 706 by Representative Norton

Chairman Girod Jackson III announced that House Bill No. 706, which provides relative to the levy of an additional sales and use tax within the city of Shreveport, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

House Bill No. 327 by Representative Arnold

Representative Arnold voluntarily deferred House Bill No. 327, which provides relative to the powers and duties of the Algiers Development District.

Submitting a witness card to provide information if requested was Mr. Fred Chevalier, representing the Algiers Development District, 8555 United Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA.

Submitting a witness card to speak in opposition to the bill was Mr. Rodney C. Braxton, representing the city of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Approval of Committee Minutes from the 2012 Regular Session as follows: May 17, 2012, May 23, 2012, and May 31, 2012; and from the 2012-2013 Interim as follows: October 11, 2012

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to adopt the May 17, May 23, and May 31 minutes from the 2012 Regular Session and the October 11 minutes from the 2012-2013 Interim. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barras, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Havard, Honore, Ortego, and Willmott voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Austin Badon, Chairman
Date Approved: May 15, 2014