

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2013 Regular Session
May 15, 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 9:51 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 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 Dalton W. Honoré
Representative Barbara M. Norton
Representative Stephen E. Pugh
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Taylor F. Barras
Representative Kenneth E. Havard
Representative Stephen J. Ortego

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, Committee Attorney
Valarie Banks, Committee Secretary
Brenca Berry, Committee Clerk
R. Jared Evans, Central Staff Attorney
David Gauthier, Central Staff Legislative Analyst
Bryan D. Vincent, Division Director
E. Anne Dunn, Director

Amy Robinson, Sergeant at Arms
Brittany Sylvester, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 44 by Senator Nevers

Senator Nevers presented Senate Bill No. 44, which authorizes the city of Bogalusa to levy a provider fee on the operation of hospitals within the city that may provide to Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals funding for state expenses for the Medicaid program within the city.

Representative Pugh offered a set of amendments to add provisions making the imposition of the provider fee subject to voter approval. Representative Pugh offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Submitting witness cards in support of Senate Bill No. 44 but declining to speak were Ms. Linda Jenkins, 25288 V Jenkins Road, Covington, LA; Ms. Beverley Musson, P.O. Box 1463, Mandeville, LA 70470; and Mr. Jim Taylor, representing the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians, 731 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 44 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 247 by Senator Nevers

Senator Nevers presented Senate Bill No. 247, which authorizes certain parishes to levy a one-half cent sales tax.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 247 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 247 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 140 by Senator Morrell

Senator Morrell presented Senate Bill No. 140, which provides for legislation which increases the maximum fine and imprisonment for a violation of an Orleans Parish ordinance.

Ms. Carol Allen, representing the Vieux Carre Property Owners and Residents Association, 837 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, (504) 522-5761, testified in support of the legislation.

Ms. Linda A. Malin, representing French Quarter Citizens, Inc., 307 Beverly Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 278-7840; Ms. Meg Lousteau, representing the Vieux Carre Property Owners and Residents Association, 816 North Rampart Place, New Orleans, LA, (605) 621-4082; and Ms. Kalen Wright, 921 Gov. Nicholls Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, (504) 302-8210, submitted witness cards in support of Senate Bill No. 140 but declined to speak.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 140 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 140 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 213 by Senator Morrell

Senator Morrell presented Senate Bill No. 213, which provides relative to benefits for a classified employee of the New Orleans Police Department on temporary or provisional assignment.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 213 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 213 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 186 by Senator Gallot

On behalf of Senator Gallot, Representative Brown presented Senate Bill No. 186, which authorizes Grant Parish Economic and Industrial Development District to exempt certain items from the levy of a sales tax. Representative Brown presented a resolution from the Grant Economic Development District in support of Senate Bill No. 186 (Exhibit A).

Mr. Darrell Glascock, representing the Grant Parish Police Jury and the Grant Economic Development District, 700 Main, Colfax, LA, (318) 240-7788, spoke in support of the bill.

Representative Burrell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 186 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 186 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 195 by Senator Gallot

At the request of Senator Gallot, Representative Brown presented Senate Bill No. 195, which authorizes the Grant Economic Development District to levy a sales and use tax. Representative Brown presented a resolution from the Grant Parish Economic and Industrial Development District in support of Senate Bill No. 195 (Exhibit B).

Mr. Darrell Glascock, representing the Grant Parish Police Jury and Economic Development District, 200 Main, Colfax, LA (318) 640-6677, submitted a witness card to provide information if requested.

Representative Honoré offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 195 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 195 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 99 by Senator Morrish

At the request of Senator Morrish, Mr. Fabian Blache, representing the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3261, presented Senate Bill No. 99, which authorizes the chief of police for the town of Welsh to effect certain disciplinary action relative to police personnel.

Mr. Kevin Hayes, representing the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 336-5200, submitted a witness card in support of the bill but declined to speak.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 99 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 99 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 209 by Senator LaFleur

Senator LaFleur presented Senate Bill No. 209, which provides relative to the Evangeline-Ville Platte Recreation District.

Representative Burrell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 209 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 209 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 25 by Senator Broome

On behalf of Senator Broome, Representative Honoré presented Senate Bill No. 25, which creates and provides for the Southern Heights Neighborhood Crime Prevention District.

Representative Burrell offered a set of amendments relative to the collection of the parcel fee to remove provisions that authorize the sheriff of East Baton Rouge Parish to retain the same percentage of collectable amounts as he receives for the collection of ad valorem taxes and to instead

authorize the district to enter into an agreement with the sheriff to authorize the sheriff to retain a collection fee; and to remove provisions that required the district to submit its budget and all amendments to the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish. Representative Burrell offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 25 with amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 238 by Senator Chabert

At the request of Senator Chabert, Representative Billiot presented Senate Bill No. 238, which establishes the Leesville Fishing Village and Cultural Preservation Commission.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 238 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Representative Billiot offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 238 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Honoré, Norton, and Pugh voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 242 by Senator Murray

On behalf of Senator Murray, Speaker Pro Tempore Leger presented Senate Bill No. 242, which authorizes the levy of an optional hotel assessment by a tourism organization upon its hotel members and provides for treating such assessment as a surcharge to hotel guests.

Testifying in support of Senate Bill No. 242 were Mr. Mark Ronig, representing New Orleans Tourism Marketing, 2029 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA, (504) 281-8688, who presented an article entitled, "BGR NOW, BGR's Spotlight on Local Government: The Hotel Assessment: A Question of Priorities, A Question of Propriety", dated May 14, 2013 (Exhibit C); Mr. Robert Watters, representing French Quarter Management District, 1235 2nd Street, New Orleans, LA 70120; Mr. Linda A. Malin, representing French Quarter Citizens, Inc., 207 Beverly Drive, Lafayette, LA 70502, (337) 229-9840; and Ms. Toni Rice, representing New Orleans Multicultural Tourism Network, 2020 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 523-5652.

Mr. Stan Harris, president and chief executive officer of the Louisiana Restaurant Association, 2700 North Arnoult Road, Metairie, LA 70002, (504) 454-2277; Mr. Bill Langkopp, representing Louisiana Hotel and Lodging Association, 201 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70170, (504) 525-9326; Mr. Eldon Rogillio, representing Louisiana Restaurant Association, 218 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA; Mr. Joe Wood Berry, representing New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau, 23334 Pinehill Cen. Road, Iowa, LA 70643, (337) 582-7843; Mr. Randy Haynie, representing Caesar's, (225) 336-4143; Ms. Kelly Schulz, representing New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 566-5011; Mr. Christian Rhodes, representing New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau; Mr. Arwin Bascle, representing Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association, 1720 Nicholson Drive #26, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; Mr. Michael O. Smith, representing Union of Hotel Associations - New Orleans, 601 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA, (504) 613-3751; and Representative Nick Lorusso, Louisiana House District No. 94 submitted witness cards in support of Senate Bill No. 242 but declined to speak.

Ms. Carolyn Goodwin, representing Vieux Carre Property Owners and Residents Association, 713 Burgundy Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, provided information.

Testifying in opposition to Senate Bill No. 242 were Ms. Janet Howard, representing Bureau of Governmental Research, 938 Lafayette Street, New Orleans, LA, (504) 525-4152; Ms. Carol Allen, representing Vieux Carre Property Owners and Residents Association, 837 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, (504) 451-2963; Ms. Meg Lousteau, representing Vieux Carre Property Owners and Residents Association, 816 North Rampart, New Orleans, LA, (504) 621-4286; Mr. Justin Winch, 812 Gravier Street, Apt. 1803, New Orleans, LA, (504) 214-3400; Mr. Jimmy Burland, representing Smith, Stagg and Vieux Carre Property Owners and Residents, 742 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 767-7163; Ms. Karen Wright, 931 Gov. Nicholls Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, (504) 302-8210; and Mr. Kermit J. Bouillion, 210 Margot Lane, Duson, LA, 70529 (337) 873-0342.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 242 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 210 by Senator Murray

At the request of Senator Murray, Representative Brossett presented Senate Bill No. 210, which authorizes a political subdivision to charge a fee, in lieu of a deposit, for production of paper documents under certain circumstances.

Mr. Harold D. Marchand, representing the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, 625 St. Joseph Street, Room 201, New Orleans, LA 70165, (504) 585-2236, provided information.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 210 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Girod Jackson III offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 210 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 243 by Senator Perry

At the request of Senator Perry, Representative Danahay presented Senate Bill No. 243, which provides relative to the allocation of funds from the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 243 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Brown offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 243 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Badon, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brossett, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 239 by Senator Ward

At the request of Senator Ward, Mr. Dan Garrett, representing West Baton Rouge Parish Fire District #2, 445 North Boulevard, Suite 810, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 325-8709, presented Senate Bill No. 239, which provides relative to the West Baton Rouge Parish Fire Protection District No. 1.

Submitting witness cards in support of the bill but declining to speak were Mr. Richard Boudreaux, representing Port Allen Fire Department, P.O. Box 468, Port Allen, LA 70767, (225) 346-5476; Mr. Chris "Fish" Kershaw, representing West Baton Rouge Council District #2, 350 Venzule Drive, Brusly, LA 70718, (225) 749-7798; and Mayor David Toups, representing the town of Addis, 8246 First Street, Addis, LA 70710, (225) 687-4844.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 239 favorably. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 239 on the Local & Consent calendar. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Girod Jackson III, Barrow, Berthelot, Billiot, Wesley Bishop, Brown, Burrell, Danahay, Honoré, Pugh, and Willmott voted yea.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Austin Badon, Chairman

Date Approved: May 15, 2014