

## **House Committee on Ways and Means**

Minutes of Meeting  
2013 Regular Session  
April 10, 2013

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Joel C. Robideaux, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. in Room 6, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Joel C. Robideaux, Chairman  
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 Harold L. Ritchie  
Representative Julie Stokes  
Representative Major Thibaut  
Representative Jeff R. Thompson  
Representative Patrick C. Williams, Vice Chair  
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Lenar L. Whitney

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Alison Pryor, Attorney  
Ms. Elise C. Read, Legislative Analyst  
Ms. Kristin Cheng, Secretary

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

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

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 69 by Representative Brossett**

Representative Brossett presented House Bill No. 69, which provides relative to the inspection of assessment lists and the notification and review of property tax assessments by the board of review in Orleans Parish.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 69 favorably, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 69 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Thibaut, Thompson, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to place House Bill No. 69 on the local and consent calendar, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 69 was placed on the local and consent calendar by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Thibaut, Thompson, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 69 was Mr. Errol Williams, Orleans Parish Assessor's Office, 1300 Perdido Drive, New Orleans, LA 70112.

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 House Bill No. 69 is attached. (See Exhibit "A")

**House Bill No. 388 by Representative Abramson**

Representative Abramson presented House Bill No. 388, which provides relative to the inspection of assessment lists and the notification and review of property tax assessments by the board of review in Orleans Parish.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Robideaux offered a motion to report House Bill No. 388 favorably, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 388 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Thibaut, Thompson, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Robideaux offered a motion to place House Bill No. 388 on the local and consent calendar, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 388 was placed on the local and consent calendar by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Thibaut, Thompson, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 238 by Representative Patrick Williams**

Representative Patrick Williams presented House Bill No. 238, which provides relative to the telecommunications tax for the deaf.

Representative Patrick Williams offered a set of amendments to reduce the amount of the tax from \$.04 to \$.02, and to remove long distance and pager devices from the levy of the tax. 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. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Patrick Williams offered a motion to report House Bill No. 238 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 238 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to provide information on House Bill No. 238 was Ms. Deborah Vivien, Legislative Fiscal Office, 900 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7233.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 238 were Ms. Brandi Berkeley, Louisiana Commission for the Deaf, P.O. Box 95, Walker, LA 70785, (225) 287-1103, and Ms. Maria Delahoussaye-Annis, Louisiana Acadiana Deaf-Blind Citizens, 409 N. St. Mary Boulevard, Lafayette, LA 70509, (337) 684-5357.

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 House Bill No. 238 is attached. (See Exhibit "B")

**House Bill No. 247 by Representative Pope**

Representative Pope presented House Bill No. 247, which provides relative to the telecommunication tax for the deaf.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Robideaux offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 247, to which there was no objection. Action on House Bill No. 247 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

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 House Bill No. 247 is attached. (See Exhibit "C")

**House Bill No. 256 by Representative Patrick Williams**

Representative Patrick Williams presented House Bill No. 256, which is a constitutional amendment that provides for the redemption period for blighted, abandoned, uninhabitable, or hazardous property sold at tax sale.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a set of amendments to change the redemption period for property which is blighted, abandoned, uninhabitable, or hazardous from one year to 18 months. 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. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Patrick Williams offered a motion to report House Bill No. 256 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 256 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 256 were Mr. Mark Goodson, East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority, 800 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-5606; Ms. Delores Brewer, City of Alexandria, P.O. Box 71, Alexandria, LA 71309, (318) 473-1307; Mr. Steven Jackson, City of Shreveport, 565 Travis Street, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 525-6768; and

Mr. John Gallagher, Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 N. Tenth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-5001.

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 House Bill No. 256 is attached. (See Exhibit "D")

### **House Bill No. 274 by Representative Talbot**

Representative Talbot presented House Bill No. 274, which provides for the time period in which a homestead exemption may be claimed under certain circumstances.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Hazel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 274 favorably, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 274 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to place House Bill No. 274 on the local and consent calendar, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 274 was placed on the local and consent calendar by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 526 by Representative Robideaux**

Representative Schroder presented House Bill No. 526 for Representative Robideaux, which requires the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay to approve line of credit recommendations for nonstate entity projects.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Robideaux offered a motion to report House Bill No. 526 favorably, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 526 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Thibaut offered a motion to place House Bill No. 526 on the local and consent calendar, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 526 was placed on the local and consent calendar by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barrow, Wesley Bishop,

Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

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 House Bill No. 526 is attached. (See Exhibit "E")

#### **House Bill No. 601 by Representative Schroder**

Representative Schroder presented House Bill No. 601, which requires the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay to approve line of credit recommendations for nonstate entity projects.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Robideaux offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 601, to which there was no objection. Action on House Bill No. 601 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

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 House Bill No. 601 is attached. (See Exhibit "F")

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joel C. Robideaux, Chairman

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Date