

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2013 Regular Session  
April 22, 2013

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

Representative Joel C. Robideaux, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.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 Jeff R. Thompson  
Representative Lenar L. Whitney  
Representative Patrick C. Williams, Vice Chair  
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Major Thibaut

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

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Mr. Daniel Leming, Sergeant at Arms  
Ms. Mattie Franklin, Sergeant at Arms  
Ms. Gloria Leonard, Sergeant at Arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 417 by Representative Ritchie**

Representative Ritchie presented House Bill No. 417, which increases the state tax on certain tobacco products and dedicates the monies.

Representative Ritchie offered a set of technical amendments. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thompson, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Broadwater offered a set of amendments to allocate 2% of the taxes collected to the Southeastern University Nursing Program. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which Representative Robideaux objected. The secretary called the roll and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 12 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Ritchie, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Wesley Bishop, Burford, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Stokes, Thompson, and Whitney voted nay.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Ritchie offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 417, to which there was no objection. Action House Bill No. 417 was voluntarily deferred 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, Thompson, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 417 were Mr. Andrew Muhl (See Exhibit "A") and Ms. Amber Stevens, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, 4324 David Drive, Metairie, LA 70003, (504)887-3879; Ms. Tonia Moore, Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living, 1515 Poydras Street, Suite 1200, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 301-9830; Mr. Dan Krutz, Louisiana Interchurch Conference, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-0134; Ms. Ashley Politz, LA American Academy of Pediatrics, P.O. Box 64629, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (225) 379-7923; and Mr. Johnathan Chapman, Louisiana Primary Care Association, 4550 North Street, Suite 120, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225)927-7662.

Present to speak in opposition of House Bill No. 417 were Mr. Jack Casanova, Church Point Wholesale, 9684 Church Point Highway, Church Point, LA 70525, (337)684-5411; Ms. Jodi Buckner, Lyons Specialty, 2800 LA Highway 1 North, Port Allen, LA 70767, (225) 706-7179; Mr. John Dan Gielen, Shop Rite and Tobacco Plus, P.O. Drawer 1349, Crowley, LA 70527, (337) 783-8696; Mr. Darrell Amar, Jr., Louisiana Oil Marketers and Convenience Store Association, 1610 W. Church Street, Hammond, LA 70401, (985) 345-1827; Mr. Rene' Gerard, LITA, 109 Elmwood Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 235-4757; and Ms. Debbie Majors, Smoke-N-Go, 401 Cobblestone Road, Lafayette, LA 70508, (337) 278-9079.

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. 417 is attached. (See Exhibit "B", Exhibit "C", and Exhibit "D")

#### **House Bill No. 304 by Representative Talbot**

Representative Robideaux indicated that House Bill No. 304 by Representative Talbot, which increases the state tax levied on cigarettes, would not be heard at this meeting.

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. 304 is attached. (See Exhibit "E")

#### **House Bill No. 537 by Representative Katrina Jackson**

Representative Robideaux indicated that House Bill No. 537 by Representative Katrina Jackson, which is a constitutional amendment that levies an additional tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products and authorizes the dedication of such monies, would not be heard at this meeting.

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. 537 is attached. (See Exhibit "F")

#### **House Bill No. 623 by Representative Katrina Jackson**

Representative Robideaux indicated that House Bill No. 623 for Representative Katrina Jackson, which increases the state tax on certain tobacco products, would not be heard at this meeting.

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. 623 is attached. (See Exhibit "G")

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

There was no other business.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joel C. Robideaux, Chairman

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Date