

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2013 Regular Session  
April 29, 2013

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

Representative Joel C. Robideaux, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. in Committee 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 Lowell C. "Chris" 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 Lenar L. Whitney  
Representative Patrick C. Williams, Vice Chair  
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Mickey J. Guillory

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

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Ms. Beverly Vincent , Sergeant at Arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 514 by Representative Kleckley**

Representative Kleckley presented House Bill No. 514, which is a constitutional amendment that limits increases in ad valorem taxation under certain circumstances.

Representative Robideaux offered a set of amendments to add a prohibition that implementation of the phase-in of increase in assessed valuation shall not trigger nor be the cause for a reappraisal of property. 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. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Robideaux offered a motion to report House Bill No. 514 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 514 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to provide information on House Bill No. 514 were Mr. John LeBlanc, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 3113 Valley Creek Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 928-5388, and Mr. Skip McGee, Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Association Retirement System, 5400 E. Broad Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615, (337) 491-3680.

Present to speak in opposition to House Bill No. 514 was Mr. James Laurent, Jr., Louisiana Assessors' Association, P. O. Box 14699, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, (225) 240-9974.

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. 514 is attached. (See Exhibit "A")

**House Bill No. 369 by Representative Kleckley**

Representative Kleckley presented House Bill No. 369, which provides relative to information included in certain taxpayer notifications from assessors.

Representative Robideaux offered a set of amendments to change the entity required to design the uniform notice from the La. Assessor's Association to the La. Tax Commission. 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. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Robideaux offered a motion to report House Bill No. 369 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 369 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 122 by Representative Thibaut**

Representative Thibaut presented House Bill No. 122, which authorizes an assessor to make separate assessments of undivided interests in tax parcels under certain circumstances.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report House Bill No. 122 favorably, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 122 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to place House Bill No. 122 on the local and consent calendar, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 122 was placed on the local and consent calendar by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 122 was Mr. James Laurent, Jr., Louisiana Assessors' Association, P. O. Box 14699, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, (225) 240-9974.

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. 122 is attached. (See Exhibit "B")

### **House Bill No. 517 by Representative Broadwater**

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 517, which provides with respect to ad valorem taxes for heavy equipment rental property.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 517, to which there was no objection. Action on House Bill No. 517 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 576 by Representative Broadwater**

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 576, which creates a special taxing district to provide a supplemental means of financing higher education.

Representative Robideaux offered a set of amendments to place the new tax (levied by this bill) on the ballot of a regularly scheduled congressional primary or gubernatorial primary election similar to a constitutional amendment. 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, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report House Bill No. 576 with amendments, to which Representative Thompson objected. The motion to report House Bill No. 576 with amendments failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 11 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Danahay, Hazel, Ritchie, and Patrick Williams voted yea. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Burford, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Whitney, and Willmott voted nay.

Present to speak in opposition to House Bill No. 576 was Mr. Tim Barfield, Louisiana Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 66258, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-4059.

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. 576 is attached. (See Exhibit "C")

### **House Bill No. 330 by Representative Greene**

Representative Greene presented House Bill No. 330, which is a constitutional amendment that reduces the homestead exemption.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Robideaux offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 330, to which there was no objection. Action on House Bill No. 330 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Burford, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, 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. 330 is attached. (See Exhibit "D")

### **House Bill No. 331 by Representative Greene**

Representative Greene presented House Bill No. 331, which is a constitutional amendment that provides with respect to the amount of assessed valuation at which the homestead exemption applies.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 331, to which Representative Robideaux objected. The motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 331 failed by a vote of 9 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Barras, Barrow, Danahay, Hazel, Johnson, Ritchie, Stokes, Thompson, and Willmott voted yea. Representatives Robideaux, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Hoffmann, Lambert, Thibaut, Whitney, and Patrick Williams voted nay.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 331 favorably, to which Representative Barrow objected. The motion to report House Bill No. 331 favorably failed to pass by a vote of 9 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Hoffmann, Lambert, Thibaut, Whitney, and Patrick Williams voted yea. Representatives Barras, Barrow, Danahay, Hazel, Johnson, Ritchie, Stokes, Thompson, and Willmott voted nay.

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

### **House Bill No. 521 by Representative Leger**

Representative Robideaux indicated that House Bill No. 521 by Representative Leger, which is a constitutional amendment that increases the amount of the homestead exemption and the level of a homestead's assessed valuation at which the homestead exemption applies, 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. 521 is attached. (See Exhibit "F")

**House Bill No. 162 by Representative Pearson**

Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 162, which is a constitutional amendment that provides with respect to maximum authorized millage rates and provisions authorizing increases in certain millage rates without voter approval.

Representative Robideaux offered a set of amendments to specify that the identification of a maximum authorized millage for a particular year is solely for the purpose of differentiation from other maximum authorized millages established over time. 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. Representatives Robideaux, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Stokes, Thompson, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to report House Bill No. 162 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 162 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thompson, Whitney, 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. 162 is attached. (See Exhibit "G")

**House Bill No. 622 by Representative Tim Burns**

Representative Tim Burns presented House Bill No. 622, which provides requirements for public hearings for purposes of certain millage increases.

Representative Patrick Williams offered a substitute bill to advertise it (like a constitutional amendment), and to allow for the coordination of meetings for all the taxing bodies, such as in Livingston Parish. He also offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill, to which there was no objection. The substitute bill was adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to report House Bill No. 622 by substitute, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 622 was reported by substitute by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Whitney, 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. 622 is attached. (See Exhibit "H")

#### **House Bill No. 705 by Representative Ponti**

Representative Ponti presented House Bill No. 705, which provides relative to solar energy systems tax credits and removes the wind energy systems tax credit.

Representative Thompson offered a set of amendments to limit the maximum amount of solar the thermal system tax credit. 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. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report House Bill No. 705 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 705 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Thompson, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 705 was Mr. C. Tucker Crawford, Solar Energy Industry, 343 Magazine Street, Suite 102, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 390-7000.

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. 705 is attached. (See Exhibit "I")

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

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joel C. Robideaux, Chairman

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Date