

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2013 Regular Session
May 13, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Joel C. Robideaux, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 9:18 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 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 Lenar L. Whitney
Representative Patrick C. Williams, Vice Chair
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Jeff R. Thompson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Ms. Brittany Sylvester, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 28 by Senator Murray**

Senator Murray presented Senate Bill No. 28, 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.

Representative Robideaux offered a set of amendments to make technical changes. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, and Patrick Williams voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 28 with amendments, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 28 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, and Patrick Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 51 by Senator Long

Senator Long presented Senate Bill No. 51, which provides relative to municipal and parish actions, liens, and proceedings for blighted or abandoned property, and for violations of public health, housing, and certain other ordinances.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Patrick Williams offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 51 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 51 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, and Patrick Williams 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 Senate Bill No. 51 is attached. (See Exhibit "A")

Senate Bill No. 169 by Senator Walsworth

Senator Walsworth presented Senate Bill No. 169, which provides an exemption from sales tax on the sale of meals to staff, patients, and residents of nursing homes, adult residential care providers, and continuing care retirement communities.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Hoffmann offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 169 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 169 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, and Patrick Williams 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 Senate Bill No. 169 is attached. (See Exhibit "B")

House Bill No. 163 by Representative Havard

Representative Havard presented House Bill No. 163, which requires that certain repairs to tangible personal property be excluded from state sales and use taxes and sales and use taxes in East Feliciana Parish.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Thibaut offered a motion to report House Bill No. 163 favorably, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 163 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barrow, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 163 were Mr. John Craft (See Exhibit "C"), Anvil Attachments, 261 Highway 19, Slaughter, LA 70777, (225) 654-8222; Ms. Lisa Shaffer, Screening Systems International, 215 Highway 19, Slaughter, LA 70777, (225) 654-3900; Mr. Robert Jackson, Town of Slaughter, P.O. Box 29, Slaughter, LA 70777, (225) 654-4278; and Mr. Corneal Woodyear, East Feliciana Parish Economic Development District, 1752 High Street, Jackson, LA 70748, (225) 634-7155.

Present to speak in opposition of House Bill No. 163 was Mr. Henderson Lewis, Jr., Ph.D., East Feliciana Parish School Board, 12732 Sillman Street, Clinton, LA 70722, (225) 683-3040.

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. 163 is attached. (See Exhibit "D")

Senate Bill No. 56 by Senator Morrell

Senator Morrell presented Senate Bill No. 56, which is a constitutional amendment to exclude owners who are permanently and totally disabled from the requirement that they annually certify to the assessor the amount of their adjusted gross income in order to receive the Special Assessment Level.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 56 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 56 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 144 by Senator Morrell

Senator Morrell presented Senate Bill No. 144, which provides for renewal of certain sales tax exemption certificates.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Patrick Williams offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 144 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 144 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Danahay, Guillory, 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 Senate Bill No. 144 is attached. (See Exhibit "E")

Senate Bill No. 250 by Senator Morrell

Senator Morrell presented Senate Bill No. 250, which provides for donations from personal income tax for the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc., through a checkoff box on state income tax returns.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Barrow offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 250 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 250 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Thibaut offered a motion to place Senate Bill No. 250 on the local and consent calendar, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 250 was placed on the local and consent calendar by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Danahay, Guillory, 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 Senate Bill No. 250 is attached. (See Exhibit "F")

Senate Bill No. 175 by Senator Heitmeier

Senator Heitmeier presented Senate Bill No. 175, which creates a fund to pay group insurance premiums for retired assessors and employees of the assessor's office in Orleans Parish.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Hazel offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 175 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 175 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 516 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 516, which provides with respect to the Ernest N. Morial-New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority.

Representative Johnson offered a set of amendments to add provisions for Stage One, Stage Three, and Stage Four projects. 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, Barrow, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 516 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 516 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, 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. 516 is attached. (See Exhibit "G")

House Bill No. 693 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 693, which authorizes the use of motion picture investor tax credits against corporation franchise and severance taxes.

Representative Barrow offered a set of amendments to reduce the tax credit from 30% to 20% and to revise various definitions. She 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, Barrow, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Barrow offered a set of amendments to delete authorization for use of tax credits against severance and sales and use taxes. She 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, Barrow, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 693 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 693 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to provide information on House Bill No. 693 were Mr. Chris Stelly and Mr. Jason El Koubi, Louisiana Economic Development, 1051 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0600; Mr. Jason DeCuir, Louisiana Department of Revenue, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-8059; and Mr. Greg Albrecht, Legislative Fiscal Office, 900 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7233.

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. 693 is attached. (See Exhibit "H")

House Bill No. 431 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 431, which provides relative to bonds issued by political subdivisions.

Representative Robideaux offered a set of amendments to change the date from which the bonds may start maturing from three years from issuance to not longer than five years from issuance. 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, Barrow, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Robideaux 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, Barrow, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Thibaut, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 431 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 431 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, 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. 431 is attached. (See Exhibit "I")

House Bill No. 283 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 283, which provides relative to tax credits for state-certified musical or theatrical productions and state-certified infrastructure projects.

Representative Robideaux offered a set of technical amendments. He also offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hoffmann, Johnson, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Whitney, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 283 with amendments. Representative Lambert offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 283. House Bill No. 283 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Ritchie, and Whitney voted yea. Representatives Barrow, Johnson, Patrick Williams, and Willmott voted nay.

Present to provide information on House Bill No. 283 were Mr. Chris Stelly, Louisiana Economic Development, 1051 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-5403, and Mr. Greg Albrecht, Legislative Fiscal Office, 900 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7233.

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. 283 is attached. (See Exhibit "J" and "K")

House Bill No. 268 by Representative Foil

Representative Foil presented House Bill No. 268, which authorizes an income tax deduction for taxpayers who employ certain qualified disabled individuals.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Robideaux offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 268, to which there was no objection. Action on House Bill No. 268 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robideaux, Barras, Barrow, Broadwater, Burford, Danahay, Guillory, Hazel, Hoffmann, Lambert, Ritchie, Stokes, Whitney, and Patrick Williams 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. 268 is attached. (See Exhibit "L", Exhibit "M", and Exhibit "N")

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel C. Robideaux, Chairman

Date