

Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2015 Regular Session
May 20, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Tim Burns, chairman of the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. in Room 2, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Tim Burns, Chairman
Representative Jeff Arnold
Representative Taylor F. Barras
Representative John A. Berthelot
Representative Joseph Bouie Jr.
Representative Mike Danahay, Vice Chair
Representative Randal L. Gaines
Representative Stephen E. Pugh
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Mike Johnson
Representative Gregory A. Miller

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, Legislative Analyst
Mark Mahaffey, Attorney
Shawn O'Brien, Secretary
Janet Anthony, Sergeant at Arms
Bret Wagner, Clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 3 by Senator Alario

Senate Bill No. 3 names the "Senator Chris Ullo Building".

Mayor Shaddinger, City of Westwego, 419 Ave. A, Westwego, LA, 504-347-5745, presented the bill on behalf of the author.

Mr. Lynwood Allemore, 618 Ave. D, Marrero, LA, spoke in support of the bill.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: two in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 3 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 3 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 57 by Senator Dorsey-Colomb

Senator Dorsey-Colomb presented Senate Bill No. 57, which provides for placement of a statue of the Reverend Theodore Judson Jemison Sr., better known as Reverend Dr. T.J. Jemison.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: one for information. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 57 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 57 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 190 by Senator Claitor

Senator Claitor presented Senate Bill No. 190, which provides relative to the records of the governor.

Mr. Card Redman, 1937 Ormandy Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-926-6780, spoke in support of the bill.

Mr. Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, 1100 Poydras St., Suite 3600, New Orleans, LA 70163, 504-569-2900, spoke in support of the bill.

Mr. Robert Scott, PAR, 4169 Jamestown Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-926-8414, provided information on the bill.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: three in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Burns offered a technical amendment to change "staff" to "internal staff" relative to the application of certain privileged intraoffice communications.

Representative Burns offered a motion to adopt the proposed technical amendment. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Bouie, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Representative Burns offered amendments to provide for prospective application only and provide relative to the application of present law to specified records and to change the effective date from January 11, 2016, to noon on January 11, 2016.

Representative Burns offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, and Pugh voted yea.

Representative Arnold offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 190 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 190 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea.

House Bill No. 690 by Representative Lorusso

House Bill No. 690 provides with respect to the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO).

Mr. Donald Vallee', Landlord Association, New Orleans, LA, 504-491-5235, presented the bill on behalf of the author.

Representative Danahay offered amendments to remove provisions that required landlord commissioners of HANO to be property owners that provide rental housing through the Housing Choice Voucher Program and grant an exception from the ethics code with respect to such service on HANO and such contract along with specified recusal provisions and to add a prohibition of appointment of a person who has or is seeking certain relationships with HANO or who has other ethics conflicts regarding service on HANO as a landlord commissioner.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea.

Representative Burns offered technical amendments to the bill and offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea.

Mr. Rodney Braxton, City of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, 225-381-0166, testified in opposition to the bill.

Ms. Suchitra Satpathi, City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido, New Orleans, LA 70112, 504-658-4900, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: one in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Arnold offered a motion to report House Bill No. 690 with amendments, to which Representative Bouie objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 690 was reported

with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Burns, Danahay, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea. Representatives Bouie and Gaines voted nay.

Senate Bill No. 131 by Senator Johns

Senator Johns and Representative Kleckley presented Senate Bill No. 131, which provides that an elected public official can do business with gaming licensees as a non-key gaming employee.

Representative Danahay offered amendments to add employees whose duties do not require or authorize access to designated gaming areas of a licensee as defined by law to those employees authorized to obtain employment as a non-key employee while holding or seeking elective office regardless of the length of the lapse of time between employment as well as those who are also an elected public official or seeking an elective office regardless of the date the employee was terminated or hired as a non-key gaming employee or employee whose duties do not require or authorize access to designated gaming areas of a licensee as defined by law.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, and Pugh voted yea.

Ms. Kathleen Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, 225-219-5600, provided information in response to questions.

Ms. Alesia Ardoin, 10715 N. Oak Hills Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-767-2020, spoke in support of the bill.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: Two in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 131 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 131 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, and Pugh voted yea.

House Resolution No. 74 by Representative Harris

Representative Harris presented House Resolution No. 74, which provides relative to conference committees and conference committee reports.

Representative Burns offered technical amendments to the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to adopt the proposed technical amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, and Pugh voted yea.

Mr. Alfred W. Speer, Clerk of the House of Representatives, provided information on the proposed House Rule changes.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 74 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 74 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Gaines, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 86 by Senator Perry

Senator Perry presented Senate Bill No. 86, which provides relative to nepotism relating to school employees.

Representative Danahay offered amendments to remove a proposed change relating to the exception for certified classroom teachers to the general grandfather clause in the nepotism prohibitions for a public employee who is employed for at least one year prior to the public employee's immediate family member becoming the agency head and to add an existing provision allowing promotion of certified classroom teachers to administrative positions if possessing appropriate qualifications and certifications, and to remove the population restriction on such provision to give it statewide applicability.

Mr. Calvin E. Woodruff, Jr., Vermillion Parish School Board, 220 S. Jefferson St., Abbeville, LA, 70510, 337-652-7099, testified in support of the bill.

Ms. Kathleen Allen, administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, 225-219-5600, informed the committee that the board opposes the original bill and has not taken a position on it with the committee amendments.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, and Pugh voted yea.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 86 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 86 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, and Pugh voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 by Representative Broadwater

House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 creates the Education in Alternative Settings Study Commission to study education in juvenile justice settings and in transitions between the community and juvenile justice settings.

Mr. David Tatman, Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, 3043 Old Forge Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, 225-767-7640, presented the bill on behalf of the author.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, and Pugh voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 82 by Representative Leger

Representative Tim Burns presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 82 on behalf of the author. The resolution creates the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force to develop certain sentencing and corrections policy recommendations.

Ms. Liz Mangham, Smart on Crime, 543 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, 225-939-6169, testified in favor of the resolution.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: four in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 82 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 82 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, and Pugh voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 179 by Senator Amedee

Representative Tim Burns presented Senate Bill No. 179 on behalf of the author. It creates a statewide website for the publication of statutorily required notices.

Mr. C. Kevin Hayes, Adams and Reese, 450 Laurel St., #1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, 225-336-5200, spoke in favor of the bill.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: two in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Burns offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 179 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 179 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, and Schroder voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 134 by Representative Lopinto

Representative Lopinto presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 134, which creates the Criminal Justice Funding Commission.

Representative Burns offered amendments to add a person appointed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana, or his designee, to the commission.

Representative Burns offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, and Pugh voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: two in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Arnold offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 134 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 134 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, and Pugh voted yea.

House Resolution No. 94 by Representative Danahay

Representative Danahay presented House Resolution No. 94, which provides relative to a study regarding registrars of voters.

Representative Danahay offered an amendment to add to the list of issues to be studied by the subcommittee the payment of expenses incurred by a registrar of voters for early voting.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Representative Danahay offered amendments to add the legislative auditor to the list of officials and entities that the subcommittee must solicit input, recommendations, and advice from in conducting the study.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 94 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 94 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 218 by Senator Murray

Senator Murray presented Senate Bill No. 218, which establishes a program to attract major events to the state and dedicates funds therefor.

Mr. Jay Cicero, Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation, 2020 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130, 504-525-5678, testified in support of the bill.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: seven in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 218 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 218 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 207 by Senator Riser

Senator Riser presented Senate Bill No. 207, which provides for election costs paid by secretary of state; governing authorities; reimbursement.

Mr. Kyle Ardoin, First Assistant Secretary of State, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, 225-922-2880, provided information on the bill.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: one for information. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Danahay offered amendments to add provisions that repeal proposed law changes effective December 31, 2017.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, and Pugh, voted yea.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 207 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 207 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, and Pugh voted yea.

House Resolution No. 47 by Representative Broadwater

Representative Tim Burns presented House Resolution No. 47 on behalf of the author. It creates a special subcommittee to study certain matters relative to elections.

Mr. Kyle Ardoin, First Assistant Secretary of State, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, 225-922-2880, provided information on the resolution.

Representative Burns offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 47 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 47 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, and Pugh voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 by Representative Thierry

Representative Thierry presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 81, which creates the Task Force on Summer Hunger.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: three in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Gaines offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 651 by Representative Gaines

Representative Gaines presented House Bill No. 651, which provides for automatic voter registration through driver's license facilities.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: two in support; one in opposition; and three for information. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Gaines offered a motion to voluntarily defer and study House Bill No. 651. Without objection, the motion to voluntarily defer and study the bill passed by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Gaines, and Schroder voted yea.

House Resolution No. 30 by Representative Richard

Representative Richard presented House Resolution No. 30, which provides relative to the Committee on Appropriations.

Representative Schroder offered amendments to provide for 11 rather than six appointed members and 10 rather than 15 elected members of the committee.

Representative Schroder offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea.

Representative Danahay offered amendments to remove provisions that the members of the Committee on Appropriations elect the chairman and vice chairman of the committee at the organizational session of the legislature.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 30 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 30 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the committee.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Pugh offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, adjourn by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, Bouie, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Pugh, and Schroder voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Burns, Chairman
Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

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