Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2015 Regular Session
May 12, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Tim Burns, chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:30 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 Mike Johnson
Representative Gregory A. Miller
Representative Stephen E. Pugh
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, Legislative Analyst
Mark Mahaffey, Attorney
Shawn O'Brien, Secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, Sergeant at Arms
Travis Brown, Sergeant at Arms
Bret Wagner, Clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 559 by Representative Jay Morris

House Bill No. 559 requires certain contracting entities to submit information to the legislative auditor prior to contracting with a state agency or receiving state monies.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 559. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 559 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Johnson, Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 651 by Representative Gaines

House Bill No. 651 provides for automatic voter registration through driver's license facilities.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on and to reschedule House Bill No. 651. Without objection, House Bill No. 651 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Johnson, Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 62 by Representative Foil

Representative Foil presented House Bill No. 62, a constitutional amendment which exempts public postsecondary education fees from requirements for imposing a new or increasing an existing fee.

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

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 62 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 62 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Johnson, Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 90 by Representative Foil

Representative Foil presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 90, which creates a commission to study the feasibility of a constitutional convention and make recommendations relative thereto.

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

Representative Schroder offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 90 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 90 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Johnson, Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 610 by Representative Harris

House Bill No. 610 places the Department of Economic Development within the office of the lieutenant governor.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 610. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 610 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Johnson, Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 137 by Representative Havard

Representative Havard presented House Bill No. 137, which creates the Privatization Review Act.

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

Mr. Thomas Groves and Mr. Scott Johnson, division of administration, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA 225-342-0881 provided information about the division's concerns about the bill.

Representative Burns pointed out that the bill had been dual-referred to the committee because of public records provisions included therein.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 137 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 137 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Johnson, Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 368 by Representative Badon

House Bill No. 368 establishes family justice centers to assist victims of certain offenses.

Ms. Charmaine Casiopi, United Way Southeast Louisiana 2515 Canal St., New Orleans, 70119, 504-827-4827, and Ms. Mary Claire Landry, New Orleans Family Justice Center, 701 Loyola Ave., Suite 201, New Orleans, LA, 504-355-0851, presented the bill on behalf of the author.

Representative Burns offered amendments to place a citation of proposed limitations on records in the list of exemptions in the Public Records Law.

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 motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Bouie, Danahay, Johnson, Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

Representative Arnold offered a motion to report House Bill No. 368 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 368 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Bouie, Danahay, Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 237 by Representative Smith

Representative Smith presented House Bill No. 237, a constitutional amendment which requires the registrar of voters in each parish to be appointed for a term and authorizes the manner of appointment of the registrar to be provided by law.

Mr. Arthur Morrell, 4925 Moore Drive, New Orleans, LA, 504-442-7653, testified in support of the bill.

Mr. Brian Champagne, registrar of voters for St. Charles Parish, P. O. Box 315, Hahnville, LA, provided information on the bill.

Ms. Mildred Adams, Registrars of Voters, 300 Iberia St., New Iberia, LA 70560, 337-369-4407, testified in opposition to the bill.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 19 in opposition, and one for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 237. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 237 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Johnson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 452 by Representative Smith

Representative Smith presented House Bill No. 452, which provides relative to registrars of voters and certain employees of the registrar.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 452. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 452 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Johnson, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 31 by Representative Richard

Representative Richard presented House Bill No. 31, a Constitutional Amendment which removes the ability for the legislature to opt out of a veto session.

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

Representative Arnold offered a motion to report House Bill No. 31 favorably, to which Representative Danahay objected. A roll call vote was taken, and by a vote of 3 yeas and 4 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Arnold, Berthelot, and Bouie voted yea. Representatives Barras, Burns, Danahay, and Miller voted nay.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 31. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 31 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Miller, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 32 by Representative Richard

Representative Richard presented House Bill No. 32, which (Constitutional Amendment) Removes governor's authority to veto line items in an appropriation bill.

There was no discussion on the bill.

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

Representative Burns offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 32. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 32 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Miller, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 398 by Representative Price

Representative Price presented House Bill No. 398, which changes requirements for approval of capital outlay priority changes and project descriptions.

Mr. Alfred W. Speer, clerk of the House of Representatives, P. O. Box 44486, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, provided information on the bill and a proposed substitute to the same. He stated that the proposed substitute was also a substitute for House Bill No. 650 by Representative Stokes.

Representative Schroder offered a motion to report House Bill No. 398 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 398 was reported by substitute by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Gaines, Johnson, Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 650 by Representative Stokes

House Bill No. 650 changes notification procedures and changes balloting procedures for approval of capital outlay priority changes and project descriptions.

Mr. Alfred W. Speer, clerk of the House of Representatives, P. O. Box 44486, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, provided information on the bill and a proposed substitute to the same. He stated that the proposed substitute was also a substitute for House Bill No. 398 by Representative Price.

Representative Schroder offered a motion to report House Bill No. 650 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 650 was reported by substitute by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Arnold, Barras, Berthelot, Bouie, Danahay, Gaines, Johnson, Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the committee.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Burns announced that House Concurrent Resolution No. 77 by Representative Jackson, House Bill No. 246 by Representative Hensgens, and House Bill No. 600 by Representative Geymann carry over to the agenda for the next day's meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Burns, Chairman
Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

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