

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Second Extraordinary Session
June 21, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen E. Pugh, vice chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. in Room 2, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Michael E. Danahay, chairman
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Jimmy Harris
Representative Dorothy Sue Hill
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Sam L. Jenkins Jr.
Representative Gregory A. Miller
Representative Stephen E. Pugh, vice chairman
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.
Representative Robert E. Shadoin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Lance Harris
Representative John C. "Jay" Morris, III

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst
Mark Mahaffey, attorney
Shawn O'Brien, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Beverly Hurst, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Resolution No. 8 by Representative Jenkins

Representative Jenkins presented House Resolution No. 8, which requests the secretary of state to study same-day voter registration for in-person early voting.

Kyle Ardoin, First Assistant Secretary of State, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, provided information to the committee.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 8 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 8 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gary Carter, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin voted yea.

House Resolution No. 4 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Barry Ivey presented House Resolution No. 4 by Representative Mike Johnson, which directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to hold certain meetings on the subject to marriage at the Louisiana State Capitol.

Kathleen Benfield, LA Family Forum, 655 St. Ferdinand Street., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-344-8533, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 4.

Sarah Jane Brady, Forum for Equality, 4035 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Resolution No. 4.

Matthew Patterson, Equality Louisiana, 650 North 6th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, 225-907-3987, spoke in opposition to House Resolution No. 4.

Lester Perryman, Human Rights Campaign, 5522 Willow St., New Orleans, LA 70115, 504-920-8999, spoke in opposition to House Resolution No. 4.

Mary Griggs, Forum for Equality, 4035 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Resolution No. 4.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to urge and request, rather than direct, the law institute to hold a majority of their meetings at the Louisiana State Capitol. Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin voted yea.

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Resolution No. 4, to which Representative Ivey objected and offered a substitute motion to report the resolution with amendments.

The secretary called the roll on the substitute motion to report House Resolution No. 4 with amendments. By a vote of 1 yeas and 8 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representative Ivey voted yea. Representatives Gary Carter, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin voted nay.

Without further objection to Representative Gary Carter's motion to involuntarily defer action, action on House Resolution No. 4 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gary Carter, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion of correspondence received from the Commissioner of Administration relative to boards and commissions which have failed to comply with the provisions or R.S. 24:513.2 and 49:1301, et. seq.

Mark Mahaffey, staff attorney, explained the time line under which boards and commissions are supposed to supply certain information which the commissioner of administration posts on the Internet. He explained procedures to deal with noncompliance, including procedures for termination of a noncompliant board or commission and transfer of its duties and functions.

Rick McGimsey, Divisions of Administration, 225-324-7054 (no further information provided) provided detail relative to specific incidents of noncompliance by boards and commissions.

The committee took no action on the item.

Discussion of activities and studies by the Department of State Civil Service and the State Classified Employee Compensation Study Group regarding classified employee compensation

Byron Decoteau, Jr. and Chris Deer, Department of State Civil Service, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, 225-342-8272 were present to provide information on studies by the Department of State Civil Service and the State Classified Employee Compensation Study Group. Mr. Decoteau informed the committee that the department is required to annually review the health of its classified employee pay plans. He reported on the work of the Classified Employee Compensation Study Group in performing the review, which he said shows a lag in the classified pay structures and the state's current inability to compete in the labor market. He stated that there are 39,000 employees in classified service and that agencies are having trouble retaining the employees.

that they need. The study group had recommended that pay systems be analyzed as to their continued or amended use.

Brandy Malatesta, Department of State Civil Service, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, 225-342-8272, provided further information on the lag of 6-28% in the pay structure for state employees compared to the southeast market. She stated that there is a lack of options to place employees within pay ranges as well as a disparity among agencies' abilities to provide pay increases.

Chris Deer, Department of State Civil Service, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, 225-342-8272, provided additional information to the committee.

Mr. Decoteau stated that the a working list of recommendations of the study group includes: creating a base pay structure to provide service and retain good employees who provide services and to promote the best supervisory candidates; changing the current philosophy of the system, which lags the work market by approximately 10%; basing pay on performance alone; and eliminating a disparity among what agencies pay for equivalent positions. Formalized recommendations are forthcoming and will be presented to the Civil Service Commission and thereafter presented to the committee, he said.

Representative Schroder suggested that the emphasis should be on restructuring in order to best work within the available budget without regard to the market and that raises should be based on performance rather than granted automatically based on years of service.

Mr. Decoteau agreed with the suggested constraints but said that a having a philosophy of retention is a place to start.

Representative Danahay said the committee looks forward to continuing discussion of the subject.

The committee took no action on the item.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Michael E. Danahay
House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Date adopted: