

House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
May 19, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Patrick O. Jefferson, chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. in Room 5, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Patrick O. Jefferson, chairman
Representative Chris Broadwater, vice chairman
Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley
Representative Kenny R. Cox
Representative Gregory Cromer
Representative Reid Falconer
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Marcus L. Hunter
Representative Edward C. "Ted" James II
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Vincent J. Pierre
Representative Edward J. Price
Representative Alan Seabaugh
Representative Scott M. Simon

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shana Veade, attorney
Alana C. Madison, secretary
Nikita Garner, clerk
Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 254 by Senator Morrell

On behalf of Senator Morrell, Senator Johns presented Senate Bill No. 254, which provides that the Louisiana Equal Pay Act be applicable to men and private employers and requires government contractors to verify equal pay practices.

Ava Dejoie, Executive Director, Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), 1001 N. 23rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-300, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 254.

Julie Schwam Harris, Legislative Agenda for Women, 1208 Pine St., New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 254.

Charmaine Caccioppi, United Way Southeast La, 2515 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 827-6823 (primary), (504) 669-8529 (cell), charmainec@unitedwaysela.org; spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 254 and provided Exhibit "A", which is included in the committee records.

Vivian Guillory, AAUW-LA, 7212 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 205-1544, vb225@aol.com, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 254.

Rosalind Blanco Cook, League of Women Voters La; Association of University Women, 4703 Baccich St., New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 908-3691, rcook@tulane.edu, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 254.

Jim Patterson, LABI, 3113 Valley Creek Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 928-5388 (primary), (225) 324-6985 (cell), jimpa@labi.org, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 254.

Elvige Cassard, Ogletree Deakins, One Shell Square, Ste. # 3500, New Orleans, LA 70139, (504) 655-6990 (primary), (504) 648-3858 (cell), elvige.cassard@ogletreedeakins.com; spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 254.

Representative Broadwater offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 254 which would delete Chapter 6-A of Title 23 relative to the Louisiana Equal Pay Act comprised of R.S. 23:661 through 669 and amend and reenact the Louisiana Equal Pay Act in section R.S. 23:302. Representative Broadwater offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Miguez objected. The secretary called the roll, and by a vote of 7 yeas and 8 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Jefferson, Broadwater, Cox, Hunter, James, Pierre, and Price voted yea. Representatives Bagley, Cromer, Falconer, Horton, McFarland, Miguez, Seabaugh, and Simon voted nay.

Ben Nevers, Governor's Office, (225) 937-0593, ben.nevers@la.gov, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 254.

Linda Hawkins, League of Women Voters of LA, 22271 Main St., Abita, LA 70420, (985) 809-3983, abitahawk@gmail.com, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 254.

Dawn Starns, NFIB, 530 Lakeland St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 218-6847, dawn.starns@nfib.org, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 254.

Representative Pierre offered a motion to report without action Senate Bill No. 254, to which Representative Seabaugh objected. The secretary called the roll, and by a vote of 6 yeas and 9 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Jefferson, Cox, Hunter, James, Pierre, and Price voted yea. Representatives Broadwater, Bagley, Cromer, Falconer, Horton, McFarland, Miguez, Seabaugh, and Simon voted nay.

Representative Seabaugh offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 254, to which Representative Cox objected. The secretary called the roll, and action on Senate Bill No. 254 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Bagley, Cromer, Falconer, Horton, Hunter, McFarland, Miguez, Seabaugh, and Simon voted yea. Representatives Jefferson, Cox, James, Pierre, and Price voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 32 in support, 6 in opposition, and 0 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 44 by Senator Gatti

Senator Gatti presented Senate Bill No. 44, which provides for workers' compensation insurance premium reductions to certain employers.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 44 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 44 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Jefferson, Broadwater, Bagley, Cox, Cromer, Falconer, Horton, Hunter, James, McFarland, Miguez, Pierre, Price, Seabaugh, and Simon voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, 0 in opposition, 0 and for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 441 by Senator Carter

Senator Carter presented Senate Bill No. 441, which provides relative to employee wages.

Representative James offered technical amendments to Senate Bill No. 441. Representative James

offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Jefferson, Broadwater, Bagley, Cox, Cromer, Falconer, Horton, James, McFarland, Miguez, Pierre, Price, Seabaugh, and Simon voted yea.

Robert Roux, LWC, 1001 N. 23rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-1690, rroux@lwc.la.gov, provided information only on Senate Bill No. 441.

Representative Price offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 441. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 441 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Jefferson, Broadwater, Bagley, Cox, Cromer, Falconer, Horton, Hunter, James, McFarland, Miguez, Pierre, Price, Seabaugh, and Simon voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, 5 in opposition, 0 and for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Patrick O. Jefferson
House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Date adopted: