

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2016 First Extraordinary Session
February 18, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Neil C. Abramson, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m. in Room 6, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Neil C. Abramson, Chairman
Representative Joseph Bouie, Jr.
Representative Chris Broadwater
Representative Paula P. Davis
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Stephen C. Dwight
Representative Jimmy Harris
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Marcus L. Hunter
Representative Mike Huval
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Edward C. "Ted" James, II
Representative Robert A. Johnson
Representative John C. "Jay" Morris, III
Representative James H. "Jim" Morris
Representative Julie Stokes
Representative Major Thibaut
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Penny B. Bouquet, Administrative Secretary

Ms. Gay Owens, Secretary
Ms. Alison Pryor, Deputy Director
Ms. Elise C. Read, Legislative Analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Ms. Janet Anthony, Sergeant at Arms
Ms. Beverly Hurst, Sergeant at Arms
Ms. Myrtis Jarrell, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 7 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 7, which provided relative to corporate income exclusions for dividend income from certain banking institutions.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 7 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 7 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Ivey, James, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to provide information was Mr. Greg Albrecht, Chief Economist, Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO), 900 North 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. 7 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 34 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 34, which changed the middle and upper income tax brackets for purposes of calculating the individual income tax.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 34 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 34 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, and Jim Morris voted yea.

Present to provide information were Secretary Kimberly L. Robinson, Department of Revenue (DOR), 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-2750, and Mr. Albrecht, Chief Economist, LFO.

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. 34 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 33 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 33, which reduced the amount of the individual income tax deduction for excess federal itemized personal deductions.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 33 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 33 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, and Jim Morris voted yea.

Present to provide information were Secretary Robinson, DOR, and Mr. Albrecht, Chief Economist, LFO.

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. 33 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 17 by Representative Broadwater

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 17, which reduced the amount of the individual income tax deduction for excess federal itemized personal deductions.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 17 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 17 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, and Jim Morris voted yea.

Present to provide information were Secretary Robinson, DOR, and Mr. Albrecht, Chief Economist, LFO.

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. 17 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 8 by Representative Broadwater

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 8, a Constitutional Amendment to eliminate the income tax deduction for federal income taxes paid.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 8 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 8 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, and Jim Morris voted yea.

House Bill No. 32 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 32, which reduced the rates for purposes of calculating tax on the taxable income of individuals.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 32 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 32 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to provide information were Secretary Robinson, DOR, and Mr. Albrecht, Chief Economist, LFO.

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. 32 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 5 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 5, which increased the amount of the earned income tax credit.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 5 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 5 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, and Jim Morris voted yea.

Present to speak in support were Ms. Angela Lorio, 11850 Wentling Avenue, #A8, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 778-7765; Mr. Jan Moller, Louisiana Budget Project, 144 Maximilian Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 614-9126; and Ms. Charmaine Caccioppi, Executive Vice President, Louisiana Association of United Way, 2515 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 827-6823.

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. 5 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 4 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 4, which repealed the earned income tax credit.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 4 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 4 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, and Jim Morris voted yea.

Present to speak in support was Ms. Angela Lorio, 11850 Wentling Avenue, #A8, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 778-7765.

Present to speak in opposition were Mr. Jan Moller, Director, Louisiana Budget Project, 144 Maximilian Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 614-9126; Ms. Sarah Berthelot, Chief Operating Officer, Louisiana Association of United Way, P. O. Box 3416, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 341-2928; Ms. Charmaine Caccioppi, Executive Vice President, Louisiana Association of United Way, 2515 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 827-6823; and Mr. Robert Tazman, Executive Director, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Throughway, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 344-7120.

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. 4 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 31 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 31, a Constitutional Amendment to eliminate the income tax deduction for federal income taxes paid for purposes of calculating corporate income tax liability.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 31 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 31 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to provide information were Secretary Robinson, DOR, and Mr. Albrecht, Chief Economist, LFO.

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. 31 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 41 by Representative Stokes

Representative Stokes presented House Bill No. 41, a Constitutional Amendment to eliminate the income tax deduction for federal income taxes paid for purposes of computing individual and corporate income taxes.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 41 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 41 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

House Bill No. 48 by Representative Abramson

Representative Abramson presented House Bill No. 48, which reduced the rates and adjusts the brackets for purposes of calculating individual income tax and provides relative to certain tax credits and deductions.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 48 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 48 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, and Jim Morris voted yea.

House Bill No. 51 by Representative Abramson

Representative Abramson presented House Bill No. 51, which reduced the rates and adjusts the brackets for purposes of calculating individual income tax and provides relative to certain deductions.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 51 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 51 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, and Jim Morris voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Jim Morris offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, and Jim Morris voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Neil C. Abramson
House Committee on Ways and Means