

## **House Committee on Ways and Means**

Minutes of Meeting  
2016 First Extraordinary Session  
February 19, 2016

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Neil C. Abramson, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 9:28 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. Beverly Hurst, Sergeant at Arms  
Ms. Myrtis M. Jarrell, Sergeant at Arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

Representative Abramson updated the committee regarding fiscal notes for certain bills on the House Committee on Ways and Means calendar.

**House Bill No. 22 by Representative Jackson**

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 22, which repealed the three-year sunset of certain reductions to tax rebates.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 22 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 22 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, Huval, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

Present to speak in opposition was Ms. Rhonda Reap-Curiel, Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association (LIDEA), 9270 Siegen Lane, Building 301, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (318) 308-9921.

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. Jesse McCormick, CGI Technologies & Solutions, Inc., 532 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 202-1875.

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. 22 is available upon request.

**House Bill No. 23 by Representative Jackson**

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 23, which repealed the three-year sunset of certain reductions to corporate income tax deductions, exemptions, and exclusions.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 23 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 23 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, Huval, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

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. 23 is available upon request.

#### **House Bill No. 24 by Representative Jackson**

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 24, which repealed the three-year sunset of certain reductions to income and corporation franchise tax credits.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 24 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 24 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, Huval, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

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. 24 is available upon request.

#### **House Bill No. 20 by Representative Broadwater**

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 20, which provided relative to the net operating loss deduction for corporate income tax.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 20 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 20 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, Huval, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

Present to provide information were Mr. Greg Albrecht, Chief Economist for the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO), 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7233, and Mr. Brad Blanchard, Department of Revenue, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (855) 307-3893.

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. 20 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 25 by Representative Jackson**

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 25, which provided relative to the net operating loss deduction for corporate income tax.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 25 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 25 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, Huval, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

Present to speak in opposition were Mr. Jim Patterson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), 3113 Valley Creek Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 928-5388; Mr. Chris DiCharry, Kean Miller LLP, 400 Convention Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 382-3492; and Ms. Dawn Starnes, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), 530 Lakeland Drive, Suite 201, Baton Rouge, LA (225) 281-6847.

Present to provide information were Mr. Albrecht, Chief Economist, LFO, and Mr. Brad Blanchard, DOR, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (855) 307-3893.

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. 25 is available upon request.

The meeting recessed at 12:11 p.m. and reconvened at 1:28 p.m.

### **House Bill No. 19 by Representative James**

Representative James presented House Bill No. 19, which provided relative to the entities to which corporate franchise tax applies.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 19 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 19 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in opposition were Mr. Jim Patterson, LABI, 3113 Valley Creek Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 928-5388, and Mr. Chris DiCharry, Kean Miller LLP, 400 Convention Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 382-3492.

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. 19 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 64 by Representative Montoucet**

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 64, which provided for the extent of the state sales and use tax exemption for business utilities.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 64 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 64 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in opposition were Ms. Dawn Starnes, NFIB, 530 Lakeland Drive, Suite 201, Baton Rouge, LA (225) 281-6847; Mr. Gregory M. Bowser, Louisiana Chemical Association, One American Place, Suite 2040, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 344-2609; Mr. Chris DiCharry, Kean Miller LLP, 400 Convention Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 382-3492; Mr. Stephen Waguespack, LABI, 3113 Valley Creek Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 928-5388; and Mr. Robert Baumann, Hood Baumann and Associates, 616 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 328-0330.

Present to provide information was 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. 64 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 62 by Representative Jackson**

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 62, which imposed a one cent sales and use tax.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 62 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 62 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, James, Johnson, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in opposition were Mr. Chris John, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (LMOGA), 730 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3205, and Mr. Robert Baumann, Hood Baumann and Associates, 616 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 328-0330.

Present to provide information were Mr. Stephen Waguespack, LABI, 3113 Valley Creek Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 928-5388, 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. 62 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 65 by Representative Montoucet**

Representative Montoucet presented House Bill No. 65, which required the advance payment of sales tax.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 65 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 65 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in support was Mr. David Tatman, Louisiana Association of Wholesalers, 3043 Old Forge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 767-7640.

Present to provide information was Secretary Kimberly L. Robinson, Department of Revenue, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-2750.

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. 65 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 54 by Representative Broadwater**

Secretary Robinson presented House Bill No. 54 for Representative Broadwater, which required the advance payment of sales tax.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 54 to the calendar. Without objection, House Bill No. 54 was returned to the calendar by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Abramson, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

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. 54 is available upon request.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative James offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Neil C. Abramson  
House Committee on Ways and Means