

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2016 First Extraordinary Session  
February 29, 2016

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

Representative Neil C. Abramson, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.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 James H. "Jim" Morris, Vice Chairman  
Representative Julie Stokes  
Representative Major Thibaut  
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative John C. "Jay" Morris, III

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Alison Pryor, deputy director  
Ms. Elise C. Read, legislative analyst  
Ms. Gay Owens, secretary

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Ms. Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms  
Ms. Beverly Hurst, sergeant at arms  
Ms. Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms  
Mr. M.J. Hernandez, clerk

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 71 by Representative Barras**

On behalf of Speaker Barras, Representative Abramson presented House Bill No. 71, which reduces the amount of certain Enterprise Zone tax credits and removes certain hotels from eligibility.

Representative Abramson offered amendments (**HCAHB71 2991 576**) to limit the amount of sales and use tax rebate or the investment income tax credit to \$100,000 per net new employee, plus \$1,000 per retained employee, when the employee is retained for three years after execution of a contract; remove administrative and support service industries with a NAICS Code 5613 from program eligibility; and authorize the Dept. of Economic Development to determine the methodology used to compute a company's average annual employment for purposes of determining eligibility. Representative Abramson offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Huval, Ivey, James, Robert Johnson, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Abramson offered amendments (**HCAHB71 2991 597**) to increase the tax credit amount for each new employee to \$3,500 if the employee is receiving SNAP, WIC, or Medicaid benefits. Representative Abramson offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Huval, Ivey, James, Robert Johnson, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 71 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 71 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Huval, Ivey, James, Robert Johnson, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak for information only was Ms. Mandi Mitchell, Louisiana Economic Development, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (800) 450-8115.

Present to speak in support were Ms. Rhonda Reap-Curiel and Mr. Don Allison, Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association, (LIDEA), 9270 Siegen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 448-5404.

A copy of the witness cards for individuals (who were present, but did not testify) in support, in opposition to, and to provide information on House Bill No. 71 is available upon request.

#### **House Bill No. 66 by Representative James**

House Bill No. 66 provided relative to the Enterprize Zone Program.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 66 to the calendar, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 66 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, Huval, Ivey, James, Robert Johnson, 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, in opposition to, and to provide information on House Bill No. 71 is available upon request.

#### **House Bill No. 49 by Representative Abramson**

House Bill No. 49 provided relative to eligibility for the Enterprise Zone program.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to return House Bill No. 49 to the calendar, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 49 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, Huval, Ivey, James, Robert Johnson, 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, in opposition to, and to provide information on House Bill No. 71 is available upon request.

#### **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 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Huval, Ivey, James, Robert Johnson, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Neil C. Abramson  
House Committee on Ways and Means