

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2016 First Extraordinary Session
March 4, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Neil C. Abramson, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 1:53 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 Robert A. Johnson
Representative John C. "Jay" Morris, III
Representative James H. "Jim" Morris, Vice Chairman
Representative Julie Stokes
Representative Major Thibaut
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Edward C. "Ted" James, II

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 by Senator Allain

Senator Allain presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, which established a task force to study ad valorem taxes that are offset by state tax credits.

Representative Jim Morris offered amendments to add an additional member to the task force to be appointed by the board of directors of the Offshore Marine Services Association, and also offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Huval, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Jim Morris offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Huval, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in support was Mr. Vern Baxter, 932 Wilson Drive, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 484-7118.

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 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 is available upon request.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8 by Senator Morrell

Senator Morrell presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8, which clarified the intent of the Legislature that Act 108 of the 2015 Regular Session is to apply prospectively only.

There was no other discussion on the bill.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Huval, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak for information only were Mr. Ron Bordelon, Chief Facilities Officer, Louisiana Recovery School District, 1615 Poydras Street, Suite 400, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504)373-6200, and Mr. Stan Smith, Orleans Parish School Board, 3520 General DeGaulle, Suite 5055, New Orleans, LA 70114, (504) 304-5911.

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 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8 is available upon request.

Senate Bill No. 22 by Senator Morrell

Senator Morrell presented Senate Bill No. 22, which modifies the sales and use tax exemption for domed stadium facilities, baseball facilities, and other publicly owned facilities.

Representative Abramson offered technical amendments, then withdrew the amendments.

Representative Stokes offered amendments to provide that the portion of the sales tax imposed in Orleans Parish that is attributable to sales at the UNO Lakefront Arena be distributed to the University of New Orleans. Representative Abramson offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Broadwater offered amendments to provide that the portion of the sales tax imposed in Tangipahoa Parish that is attributable to sales at a public arena located on the property of Southeastern Louisiana University be distributed to Southeastern Louisiana University. Representative Abramson offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 22 with amendments, to which there was no objection. The bill was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak for information were Mr. Patrick Widhalm, Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts, 715 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA 71457, (310) 357-2520, and Ms. Lotte Delaney, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, (NOCCA), 2800 Chartres Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 940-2826.

Senate Bill No. 15 by Senator Morrell

Senator Morrell presented Senate Bill No. 15, which provides relative to the application of refundable tax credits.

Representative Abramson offered amendments to remove the distinction between taxpayers who file timely returns and taxpayers who request extensions to file, and treats all taxpayers the same (who claim credits on their tax returns). Representative Abramson offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Thibaut offered amendments, but after discussion, withdrew the amendments.

Representative Thibaut offered amendments concerning the inventory tax credit portion of the bill. Representative Abramson offered a motion to adopt the amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 15 with amendments, to which Representative Davis objected. Representative Abramson withdrew his motion.

Representative Davis offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 15, to which Representative Broadwater objected. Representative Davis withdrew her motion.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 15 with amendments, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 15 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to provide information on Senate Bill No. 15 were Mr. Jim Patterson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 3113 Valley Creek Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 928-5388; and

Mr. Bob Israel, Louisiana Automobile Dealers Association, 7526 Picardy Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 769-5500.

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 Senate Bill No. 15, is available upon request.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Neil C. Abramson
House Committee on Ways and Means