

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2016 First Extraordinary Session  
March 7, 2016

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

Representative Neil C. Abramson, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 1:22 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 John C. "Jay" Morris, III  
Representative James H. "Jim" Morris, Vice Chairman  
Representative Julie Stokes  
Representative Major Thibaut  
Representative Thomas P. Willmott

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**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****Senate Bill No. 25 by Senator Cortez**

Senator Cortez presented Senate Bill No. 25, which created a special committee to review sales and use tax exemptions and exclusions.

Present and in support were Mr. Jim Patterson, LA Association of Business and Industry, 3113 Valley Creek Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, (225) 928-5388, and Mr. Mike Rome, Madison Voluntary Council on Aging, 2035 Elm Street, Tallulah, LA 71282, (318) 574-3666.

Representative Jim Morris offered amendments to change the language in the bill to make meetings of the committee (to review exemptions or exclusions) mandatory rather than permissive. Representative Jim Morris 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, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, James, Jim Morris, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

Representative Stokes offered amendments to expand the membership of the Sales Tax Streamlining & Modernization Commission to include two additional representatives and two additional senators. Representative Stokes offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Thibaut objected. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas, 7 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bouie, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Ivey, James, Robert Johnson, and Stokes voted yea. Representatives Broadwater, Davis, Dwight, Horton, Huval, Jim Morris, and Thibaut voted nay. Representative Abramson abstained.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 25. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 25 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and

0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Huval, Ivey, James, Robert Johnson, 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 Senate Bill No. 25 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 123 by Representative Hunter**

Representative Hunter presented House Bill No. 123, which provides for suspension of certain tax exemptions during periods of financial exigency.

Present and in opposition was Mr. Mike Rome, Madison Voluntary Council on Aging, 2035 Elm Street, Tallulah, LA 71282, (318) 574-3666.

Representative Thibaut offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 123, to which there was no objection. Action on House Bill No. 123 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Hilferty, Horton, Huval, Ivey, James, Robert Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, 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. 123 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 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, James, Robert Johnson, Jim Morris, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Neil C. Abramson  
House Committee on Ways and Means