

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2016 Regular Session  
April 12, 2016

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

Representative Neil C. Abramson, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 9:41 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 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 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 Paula P. Davis  
Representative Edward C. "Ted" James, II  
Representative Robert A. Johnson

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

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

#### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Ms. Beverly Hurst, sergeant at arms

### III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

#### **House Bill No. 981 by Representative Broadwater**

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 981, which requires the collection of advance payment of the state sales and use tax by certain tobacco and alcoholic beverage wholesalers.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 981, to which there was no objection. Action on House Bill No. 981 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Broadwater, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Huval, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, and Thibaut voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 978 by Representative Danahay**

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 978, which provides for administration, disposition, enforcement, and adjudication of state and local taxes under the jurisdiction of the Board of Tax Appeals.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Dwight offered a motion to report House Bill No. 978 favorably, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 978 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Broadwater, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak for information only was Mr. Cade Cole, Board of Tax Appeals, 630 Kirby Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, (337) 439-2033.

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. 978 is available upon request.

#### **House Bill No. 206 by Representative Thibaut**

Representative Thibaut presented House Bill No. 206, which provides for an automobile expense allowance for the assessors in Assumption, Iberville, and Pointe Coupee Parishes.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to add a limitation on the amount of the automobile expense allowance for the assessors in Webster, Assumption, Iberville, and Pointe Coupee Parishes to not exceed 15% of the assessor's annual salary. Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Thibaut offered a motion to report House Bill No. 206 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 206 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 206 was Mr. Jim Petitjean, Acadia Parish Assessor, P. O. Box 1329, Crowley, LA 70527, (337) 788-8871.

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. 206 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 187 by Representative Bishop**

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 187, which authorizes an automobile expense allowance for the assessor in Lafayette Parish.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to add a limitation on the amount of the automobile expense allowance for the assessors in Webster and Lafayette Parishes, not to exceed 15% of the assessor's annual salary. Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Thibaut offered a motion to report House Bill No. 187 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 187 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in support was Mr. Conrad Comeaux, Lafayette Parish assessor, P. O. Box 3225, Lafayette, LA 70502, (337) 291-7080.

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. 178 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 413 by Representative Shadoin**

Representative Shadoin presented House Bill No. 413, which authorizes an automobile expense allowance for the assessor in Ouachita Parish.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to add a limitation on the amount of the automobile expense allowance to not exceed 15% of the assessor's annual salary. Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Abramson offered amendments to add authorization for the assessors in East Carroll, Madison, Richland, and West Carroll Parishes to receive an automobile expense allowance. Representative Abramson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Present and in support were Ms. Stephanie Smith, Ouachita Parish Assessor, P. O. Box 1127, Monroe, LA 71201, (318) 376-3781, and Mr. Lance Futch, Union Parish Assessor, 101 North Main Street, Farmerville, LA 71241, (318) 368-3232.

Representative Thibout offered a motion to report House Bill No. 413 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 413 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, 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. 413 is available upon request.

#### **House Bill No. 419 by Representative Shadoin**

Representative Shadoin presented House Bill No. 419, which authorizes an automobile expense allowance for the assessor in Union Parish.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to add a limitation on the amount of the automobile expense allowance for the assessor to not exceed 15% of the assessor's annual salary. Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Representative Abramson offered amendments to add authorization for the assessors in LaSalle and Red River Parishes to receive an automobile expense allowance. Representative Abramson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Thibaut offered a motion to report House Bill No. 419 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 419 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, 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. 413 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 1097 by Representative Havard**

Mr. Jarrod J. Coniglio, Office of Debt Recovery, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (225) 341-9122, presented House Bill No. 1097 for Representative Havard, which authorizes an automobile expense allowance for the assessors in East Feliciana and West Feliciana Parishes.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to add a limitation on the amount of the automobile expense allowance for the assessors in East Feliciana, Webster, and West Feliciana parishes to not exceed 15% of the assessor's annual salary. Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Jimmy Harris, Hilferty, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Thibaut offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1097 with amendments, to which there was no objection. House Bill No. 1097 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, DeVillier, Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay 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. 1097 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 695 by Representative Broadwater**

On behalf of Representative Broadwater, Mr. Jerrod Coniglio, Office of Debt Recovery, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (225) 341-9122, presented House Bill No. 695, which provides relative to the types of debt the office of debt recovery is charged with collecting.

Representative Broadwater offered amendments to change the debt required to be referred to the attorney general to non-final debt; defines "final debt"; specified that "delinquent debt" is debt that is 60 days past due; defined "non-final debt"; change the fee charged to the debtor for collection of debt; and make technical corrections. Representative Broadwater offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which there was no objection. The amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, DeVillier, Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report House Bill No. 695 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 695 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, DeVillier, Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Abramson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, DeVillier, Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Neil C. Abramson  
House Committee on Ways and Means