

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2016 Regular Session  
May 16, 2016

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

Representative James H. "Jim" Morris, Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 2:44 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 Paula P. Davis  
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier  
Representative Stephen C. Dwight  
Representative Dodie Horton  
Representative Mike Huval  
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 Chris Broadwater  
Representative Jimmy Harris  
Representative Stephanie Hilferty  
Representative Marcus L. Hunter  
Representative Barry Ivey  
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. Myrtis Jarrell, Sergeant at Arms

Mr. Christopher Bailey, Clerk

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**Senate Bill No. 273 by Senator Donahue**

Senator Donahue presented Senate Bill No. 273, which authorized the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission to issue additional toll bonds.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

Representative Jim Morris offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 273 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 273 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Horton, Huval, James, Robert Johnson, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

Present to speak in support was Mr. Carlton Dufrechou, General Manager of the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission, 3900 Causeway Blvd., Suite 400, Metairie, LA 70002, (504) 835-3118.

Present to provide information was Mr. Hugh Martin, Foley & Judell, LLP, 365 Canal Street, Suite 2600, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 568-1249.

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 only on Senate Bill No. 273 is available upon request.

**Senate Bill No. 463 by Senator Bishop**

Senator Bishop presented Senate Bill No. 463, which provided relative to the Judicial Building Fund for the Civil District Court for Orleans Parish.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

Representative Thibaut offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 463 favorably, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 463 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Horton, Huval, James, Robert Johnson, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 11 by Senator John Smith**

Ms. Cheryl B. Cooper, Senior Attorney, Senate Business Affairs Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-0604, presented Senate Bill No. 11 for Senator John Smith, which authorized the Beauregard Parish Assessment District to provide an automobile expense allowance for the assessor.

Representative Thibaut offered a set of amendments to make certain clarifications regarding the assessor's expense allowance, 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, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Horton, Huval, James, Robert Johnson, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

Representative Thibaut offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 11 with amendments, to which there was no objection. Senate Bill No. 11 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Horton, Huval, 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 of, in opposition to, and to provide information only on Senate Bill No. 11 is available upon request.

**House Bill No. 131 by Representative Connick**

On behalf of Representative Connick, Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 131, which was a Constitutional Amendment to authorize the legislature to provide, by law, for the collection of all sales and use taxes imposed by any taxing authority in the state.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Jim Morris offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 131, to which there was no objection. Action on House Bill No. 131 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Horton, Huval, 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 of, in opposition to, and to provide information on House Bill No. 131 is available upon request.

**House Bill No. 825 by Representative Connick**

On behalf of Representative Connick, Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 825, which provided for the centralized collection of local sales and use taxes by the Department of Revenue.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Jim Morris offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 825, to which there was no objection. Action on House Bill No. 825 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Horton, Huval, 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 of, in opposition to, and to provide information on House Bill No. 825 is available upon request.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Horton offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Horton, Huval, James, Robert Johnson, Jim Morris, Stokes, Thibaut, and Willmott voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Neil C. Abramson  
House Committee on Ways and Means