

## **House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs**

Minutes of Meeting  
2017 Regular Session  
April 27, 2017

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

Representative John A. Berthelot, chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative John A. Berthelot, chairman  
Representative Robert E. Billiot  
Representative Joseph Bouie, Jr.  
Representative Paula P. Davis  
Representative Stephen C. Dwight  
Representative Rick Edmonds  
Representative Cedric B. Glover  
Representative Stephanie Hilferty  
Representative Mike Huval, vice chairman  
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.  
Representative Rodney Lyons  
Representative C. Denise Marcelle  
Representative Barbara M. Norton  
Representative Stephen E. Pugh  
Representative Jerome Richard  
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith  
Representative Joseph A. Stagni  
Representative Malinda B. White

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tina Righteous, attorney  
Bryan D. Vincent, director  
Valarie Banks, secretary

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Carter Stone, clerk  
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms  
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**House Bill No. 70 by Representative Horton**

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 70, which provides relative to the classified fire service in the cities of Baton Rouge, Bossier City, and Lafayette and Fire Protection District No. 2 of Ward 4 of Calcasieu Parish.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters, 1585 Pollard Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, (225) 572-8483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 70.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 70 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 70 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 260 by Representative Terry Brown**

Representative Terry Brown presented House Bill No. 260, which repeals provisions for the Grant Parish Economic and Industrial Development District.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 260 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 260 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

**House Bill No. 42 by Representative Danahay**

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 42, which provides that the position of district captain for Ward 6 Fire Protection District No. 1 of Calcasieu Parish is in the unclassified service.

Tim Gilland, chief of the Ward 6 Fire Department, 108 Marcantel Road, DeQuincy, LA, (337) 912-9167, spoke in support of House Bill No. 42.

Chad Major Professional Firefighters, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, (225) 572-8483, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 42.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 42. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 42 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 291 by Representative Danahay**

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 291, which provides relative to the per diem paid to members of the board of commissioners of the Calcasieu Cameron Hospital Service District.

Janie Fruge, West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital, 9 River Road, Sulphur, LA, (337) 527-4240, spoke in support of House Bill No. 291.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 291 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 291 was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

**House Bill No. 46 by Representative Robby Carter**

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 46, which provides relative to the personnel authority of the police chief in Amite City.

Representative Huval offered amendments to add a requirement that any action taken by the police chief, as authorized by proposed law, be taken without regard to race, creed, or color. Representative Huval offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis,

Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 46 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 46 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 147 by Representative Garofalo**

Representative Garofalo presented House Bill No. 147, which authorizes the governing authority of St. Bernard Parish to enact ordinances requiring property owners to remove deleterious growths and trash.

Representative White offered a motion to report House Bill No. 147 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 147 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 182 by Representative Jimmy Harris**

Representative Jimmy Harris presented House Bill No. 182, which provides relative to the Kenilworth Improvement District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 182 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 182 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 200 by Representative Falconer**

Representative Falconer presented House Bill No. 200, which provides relative to the municipal police civil service system for the city of Mandeville.

Donald Villere, mayor of the city of Mandeville, 3101 East Causeway Approach, Mandeville, LA 70448, (985) 624-9437, spoke in support of House Bill No. 200.

Jack McGuire, Mandeville Police Civil Service Board, 129 Lamarque Street, Mandeville, LA 70448, (504) 522-5581, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 200.

Daniel E. Sullivan, Louisiana Civil Service League, 810 Union Street, Suite 305, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 522-3875, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 200.

Representative White offered a motion to report House Bill No. 200 favorably, to which Representative Stagni objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 200 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, and White voted yea. Representatives Bouie, Glover, Norton, Smith, and Stagni voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 617 by Representative LeBas**

Representative LeBas presented House Bill No. 617, which provides relative to District Five Road Commission of St. Landry Parish and District Six Road Commission of St. Landry Parish.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 617 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 617 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

**House Bill No. 589 by Representative Bagneris**

Representative Bagneris presented House Bill No. 589, which authorizes the governing authorities of municipalities to regulate the accumulation of waste tires on residential property.

Rodney Braxton, city of New Orleans, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166, spoke in support of House Bill No. 589.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 589 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 589 was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 87 by Representative DeVillier**

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 87, which provides relative to the classified police service in the city of Eunice.

Randy Fontenot, Eunice Police Department police chief, 3005 South Second Street, Eunice, LA 70535, (337) 457-6595, spoke in support of House Bill No. 87.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 87 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 87 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 540 by Representative DeVillier**

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 540, which provides relative to the authority of the police chief in the city of Eunice.

Scott Kirkpatrick, Chiefs of Police, 8440 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 540.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 540 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 540 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 587 by Representative Hunter**

Representative Hunter presented House Bill No. 587, which provides relative to the Prairie Road Water District in Ouachita Parish.

Representative Huval offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 587. Representative Huval offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments to reduce the proposed per diem from \$150 to \$61. Representative Marcelle offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Edmonds objected. The secretary called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, and White voted yea. Representatives Edmonds and Stagni voted nay.

Representative Davis offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 587. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 587 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 164 by Representative Bagley**

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 164, which provides for the abolition of the office of police chief and the police department for the town of Stonewall.

Representative Huval offered a motion to report House Bill No. 164 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 164 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, and Stagni voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 576 by Representative Thibaut**

Representative Thibaut presented House Bill No. 576, which provides relative to the board of commissioners of Hospital Service District No. 1 of the parish of Pointe Coupee.

Representative Huval offered a motion to report House Bill No. 576 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 576 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Stagni, and White voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 201 by Representative Marcelle**

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 201, which provides relative to the Melrose Place Crime Prevention District.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 201. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 201 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

*Vice Chairman Huval in the chair.*

### **House Bill No. 382 by Representative Berthelot**

Representative Berthelot presented House Bill No. 382, which excludes Lawrason Act municipalities from certain provisions of the Local Government Budget Act.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 382 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 382 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 58 by Representative Pugh**

Representative Pugh presented House Bill No. 58, which provides that the water company for Tangipahoa Parish collect sewerage bills.

Representative Berthelot offered amendments to authorize the governing authority of Tangipahoa Parish, rather than the sewerage district, to enact ordinances to enforce proposed law. Representative Berthelot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Smith, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 58 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 58 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Smith, and Stagni voted yea.

## **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Berthelot announced that the committee would meet Wednesday, May 3, 2017, at 8 a.m.



## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Pugh offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Smith, and Stagni voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman John A. Berthelot  
House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Date adopted: