

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
May 11, 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 8:59 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 Stephen E. Pugh
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Barbara M. Norton
Representative Jerome Richard

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Valarie Banks, secretary
David Gauthier, analyst
Drew Murray, analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 69 by Representative Hall

Representative Hall presented House Bill No. 69, which provides relative to the governing board of the Alexandria Central Economic Development District.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments to increase the membership of the board by granting appointments to the sheriff of Rapides Parish and the district attorney for the ninth judicial district court of Louisiana. Representative Marcelle offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Hilferty, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Randy Harris, 412 Rene Drive, Alexandria, LA 71302, (318) 792-3885, spoke in support of House Bill No. 69.

Ed Larvadain, III, city councilman, 626 8th Street, Alexandria, LA 71301, (318) 445-6717, spoke in support of House Bill No. 69 and provided handouts, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Joseph Fuller, city councilman, 3512 Royal Drive, Alexandria, LA 71302, (318) 613-4941, spoke in support of House Bill No. 69.

Catherine Davidson, 1921 Jackson Street, Alexandria, LA, (318) 308-5759, spoke in support of House Bill No. 69.

Rhonda Reap-Curiel, CENCOR Consulting Group, LLC, P.O. Box 12096, Alexandria, LA 71315, (318) 308-9921, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 69.

Jacques Roy, city of Alexandria, office of the mayor, no address given, (318) 449-5002, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 69.

Christopher Sharplin, Holiday Inn Downtown, 701 4th Street, Alexandria, LA, (337) 591-2975, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 69.

Vice Chairman Huval in the chair.

Chairman Berthelot in the chair.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 69 with amendments, to which Representative Edmonds objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 69 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Billiot, Bouie, Dwight, Glover, Hilferty, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Berthelot, Davis, Edmonds, Huval, Pugh, and Stagni voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 4 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 199 by Representative Steve Carter

Representative Steve Carter presented House Bill No. 199, which provides relative to the board of directors of the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging.

Representative Davis offered amendments to:

- (1) Increase the membership of the board of directors of the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging from seven to nine. The amendments add two additional members to the board by granting one additional appointment to the mayor of East Baton Rouge and one additional appointment the metro council.
- (2) Require that each member appointed by the mayors of Zachary, Baker, and Central be a domiciliary of and qualified voter in his respective municipality. Additionally require at least one of the members appointed by the mayor of East Baton Rouge to be a domiciliary of and a qualified voter in the city of Baton Rouge.
- (3) Remove appointments granted to the governing authority of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and the governing authority of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber and instead grant

appointments to the governing board of the Capital Area United Way and the state director of AARP Louisiana. Provide that those members serve staggered three-year terms.

- (4) Provide for a transition between the service of the old board members and the new board members. Additionally requires that appointments be made within 30 days of the effective date of the bill and that names be submitted to the executive director of the office of elderly affairs. Require the executive director to call the first meeting of the board within 30 days of receiving the names of a least five appointees.
- (5) Provide that the bill is effective upon signature of the governor.

Representative Davis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Smith objected. The secretary called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Pugh, and Stagni voted yea. Representatives Billiot, Bouie, Glover, Lyons, Marcelle, and Smith voted nay.

Representative Katrina Jackson, Louisiana House District No. 16, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 69.

Senator Regina Ashford Barrow, Louisiana Senate District No. 15, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 69.

Shontell LeBeouf, East Baton Rouge Council on Aging, 5790 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 69.

Edna M. Allen, 2777 North 30th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 355-9945, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 69.

Mary Ceaser, East Baton Rouge Council on Aging, 6751 Titan Avenue #3Y, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 248-6807, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 69.

Representative Smith offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 199, to which Representative Davis objected. The secretary called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 199 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Billiot, Bouie, Glover, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Smith, and White voted yea. Representatives Berthelot, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, and Pugh voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in opposition. 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.

(Amendments for House Bill No. 587 were previously adopted at a committee meeting on April 27, 2017. Following is a description of the adoption of the previous amendments:

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 reduced 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 Glover offered a motion to report House Bill No. 587 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 587 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Smith, and White voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 86 by Senator Perry

On behalf of Senator Perry, Representative Stefanski presented Senate Bill No. 86, which permits the governing authorities of certain parishes to employ their own attorneys to represent them generally.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments to change the effective date from effective upon signature of the governor to October 1, 2017. Representative Marcelle offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Lyons, Marcelle, Smith, and White voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 86 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 86 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Lyons, Marcelle, Smith, and White voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Huval offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Smith, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: