

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
April 18, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Neil C. Abramson, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m. in Room 6, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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 Dodie Horton
Representative Marcus L. Hunter
Representative Mike Huval
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Edward C. "Ted" James, II
Representative John C. "Jay" Morris, III
Representative James H. "Jim" Morris, vice chairman
Representative Clay Schexnayder
Representative Alan Seabaugh
Representative Julie Stokes
Representative Major Thibaut

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Robert A. Johnson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Alison Pryor, deputy director
Ms. Elise C. Read, legislative analyst
Ms. Tina Vanichchagorn, attorney

Ms. Linda Hopkins, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Ms. Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

Ms. Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

Ms. Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Chairman Abramson stated that no vote will be taken on any House Bill discussed at this meeting.

House Bill No. 264 by Stuart Bishop

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 264, which specifies the types of construction contracts eligible for exclusion from the levy of a new state or local sales and use tax.

Present and in support of House Bill No. 264 were Mr. Donald Broussard, The Lemoine Company, LLC, 214 Jefferson Street, Suite 200, Lafayette, LA 70501, (337) 896-7720, and Mr. John Walters, Associated Builders & Contractors, 19251 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 752-1415.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

House Bill No. 63 by Lance Harris

Representative Lance Harris presented House Bill No. 63, which requires the advanced collection of state sales and use tax.

Present to speak in opposition to House Bill No. 63 were Mr. Fred Burkett and Ms. Jessica Elliott, La. Retailers Association, P. O. Box 44034, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 344-9481, and Mr. Jay Christina, Olinde's Furniture, 9536 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 926-3380.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

House Bill No. 221 by Jack McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 221, which provides for the state sales and use tax exclusion for pollution control machinery and equipment.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 221 were Commissioner Mike Strain, La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, (no address given), (225) 922-1233; Mr. Tony McManus, McManus

Timber Co. Inc., 153 Rufus Long Road, Winnfield, LA 71483, (318) 628-6318, and Mr. Joshua McAllister, McManus Timber, La. Logging Council, 208 Shady Hills Lane, Winnfield, LA 71483, (318) 332-9699.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

House Bill No. 411 by Ted James

Representative James presented House Bill No. 411, which provides for effectiveness and applicability of the state sales and use tax exemption for purchases and leases by qualifying radiation therapy treatment centers.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 411 were Dr. Jonas Fontenot and Ms. Renea Duffin, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center & LSU, (no address given), (225) 767-0847.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

The following two bills were presented together:

House Bill No. 396 by Stephen Dwight

Representative Dwight presented House Bill No. 396, which provides for the effectiveness and applicability of the state sales and use tax exclusion for sales of gold, silver, or numismatic coins, and platinum, gold, or silver bullion.

House Bill No. 127 by Larry Bagley

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 396, which provides for the extent and effectiveness of the state sales and use tax exclusion for sales of gold, silver, or numismatic coins, and platinum, gold, or silver bullion.

Present to speak in support of House Bill Nos. 396 and 127 were Representative Mark Abraham and Mr. Randy Haynie, La. Coin Dealers Association, P. O. Box 52129, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 235-7049, representing the 10 store-front coin dealers in Louisiana.

There was no further discussion on these bills.

House Bill No. 92 by Chris Broadwater

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 92, which adds certain polyroll tubing to the definition of farm equipment for purposes of the state sales and use tax exemption for certain farm equipment.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

House Bill No. 559 by Chris Broadwater

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 559, which repeals the state sales and use tax exclusion for manufacturing machinery and equipment and the exemption for business utilities and provides a refund of the state sales and use tax collected on certain manufacturing machinery and equipment and industrial utilities.

Present to speak for information only on House Bill No. 559 were Ms. Emily Toler and Secretary Kimberly Robinson, La. Dept. of Revenue, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (855) 307-3893.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

House Bill No. 240 by Chris Broadwater

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 240, which provides for applicability of the sales and use tax exclusions for certain tangible personal property purchased for lease or rental.

Present to speak for information only on House Bill No. 240 was Secretary Kimberly Robinson, La. Dept. of Revenue, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (855) 307-3893.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

House Bill No. 220 by Tanner Magee

Representative Magee presented House Bill No. 220, which reduces the state sales and use tax rate and provides for the base of the remaining state sales and use tax.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 220 was Ms. Dawn Starns, National Federation of Independent Business, 530 Lakeland Drive, (no other information given), 287-4646.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

Vice Chairman Jim Morris recessed until 1 p.m.

House Bill No. 365 by Barry Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 365, which excludes manufacturing machinery and equipment from local sales and use tax.

Present to speak in opposition to House Bill No. 365 were Mr. Mark West, Police Jury Association of La., 707 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 715-2321, and Mr. Roger Bergeron, La. Association of Tax Administrators, 547 Sixth Street, Port Allen, LA, (225) 937-4438.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

House Bill No. 376 by Barry Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 376, which excludes certain business utilities from state and local sales and use taxes.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chairman Jim Morris announced that House Bill No. 275, House Bill No. 344, House Bill No. 391, House Bill No. 548, House Bill No. 561, House Bill No. 562, House Bill No. 577, House Bill No. 579, House Bill No. 583, House Bill No. 601, and House Bill No. 609 are voluntarily deferred.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bouie, Broadwater, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Huval, Ivey, James, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, and Thibaut voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Neil C. Abramson
House Committee on Ways and Means