

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
April 25, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Neil C. Abramson, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 9:48 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 Edward C. "Ted" James, II
Representative Robert A. Johnson
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 Barry Ivey

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 628 by Representative Jones

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 628, which imposes the Commercial Activity Tax. This bill was discussed at the April 24, 2017 meeting.

Representative Johnson offered amendments to consolidate the three sets of amendments discussed yesterday. Staff explained consolidation of technical amendments. Representative Johnson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

Present to speak in support of House Bill No. 628 was Mr. Scott Guidry, Acadian Ambulance Service, 2916 North University Avenue, Lafayette, LA 70507, (337) 521-3405.

Present to speak for information only on House Bill No. 62 was Mr. Scott Drenkard, Economist, Director of State Projects, The Tax Foundation, 1325 G Street NW, Suite 950, Washington, DC 20003, (202)464-5111.

Present to speak in opposition to House Bill No. 628 were Mr. Danny McCormick, M & M Oil Company, P. O. Box 26, Oil City, LA 71061, (318) 465-7689; Mr. Donny Rouse, Rouses Markets, 1301 Saint Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA, (985) 209-0712; Mr. Chris John, La. Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association, 730 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3205; Ms. Dawn Starns, State Director, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), 530 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 218-6847; Mr. Adam Haddox, La. Pulp & Paper Association, (no street address) Baton Rouge, LA, (no phone number given); Mr. Nick Castjohn, La. Home Builders Association, 4636 David Drive, Kenner, LA 70065, (504) 628-8989; Mr. Mitch Rotolo, Rotolo's Pizzeria, 17503 West Muirfield, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 293-2889; Col. Rob Maness, (retired) La. Power Coalition, Madisonville, LA, (985) 218-0135; Mr. Brian Landry, La. Chemical Association, One American Place, Suite 2040, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (no phone number given); Mr. Michael Boudreaux, Juban's 3739 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 346-8422.

Not present, but offered written testimony in opposition to House Bill No. 628 was Mr. Bryan Lowe, Healthcare Distribution Alliance, 901 North Glebe Road, Suite 1000, Arlington, VA 22203, (717) 773-5569. (See Exhibit F, April 24, 2017)

Representative Johnson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 628. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 628 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut 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 House Bill No. 628 is available upon request.

House Bill No. 563 by Representative Jones

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 563, which requires a minimum corporate income tax.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 563. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 563 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

House Bill No. 666 by Representative Jones

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 666, which imposes the La. Margins Tax and repeals the corporation income tax.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 666. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 666 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

House Bill No. 647 by Representative Havard

Representative Havard presented House Bill No. 647, which levies the Louisiana Petroleum Refinery Business Tax.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 647. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 647 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

House Bill No. 648 by Representative Havard

Representative Havard presented House Bill No. 648, which levies the Louisiana Business Tax.

There was no further discussion on this bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 648. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 648 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut 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 to adjourn passed by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Broadwater, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Johnson, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Neil C. Abramson
House Committee on Ways and Means