

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2017 Regular Session  
May 16, 2017

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

Representative Neil C. Abramson, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 10:01 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 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 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 Chris Broadwater

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Alison Pryor, deputy director  
Ms. Elise C. Read, legislative analyst  
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. 2 by Representative Abramson**

Representative Abramson presented House Bill No. 2, which provides for the comprehensive Capital Outlay budget.

Representative Abramson offered amendments to change the priority funding of certain projects and add new projects. Representative Abramson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

Representative Abramson offered amendments to allow staff to make technical changes. Representative Abramson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 2 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 2 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, 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. 2 is available upon request.

**House Bill No. 3 by Representative Abramson**

Representative Abramson presented House Bill No. 3, which provides for the Omnibus Bond Act.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 3 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 3 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, James, 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. 3 is available upon request.

*House Bill No. 189 and House Bill No. 234 were discussed together.*

### **House Bill No. 189 by Representative DeVillier**

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 189, which provides relative to capital outlay reform.

Representative DeVillier offered amendments to modify funding mechanisms for non-state projects, to provide for the definition of 'economic development project'; and to provide an exemption for certain projects. Representative DeVillier offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, James, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 189 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 189 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, James, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 234 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 234, which provides relative to the local match requirements for nonstate entities applying for capital outlay funding.

Representative Abramson offered amendments to modify the funding mechanisms for non-state projects. Representative Abramson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, James, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 234 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 234 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Abramson, Bouie, DeVillier, Dwight, Horton, Huval, Ivey, James, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

**House Bill No. 632 by Representative Steve Carter**

Representative Steve Carter presented House Bill No. 632, which creates an additional tax on motor fuels and requires the tax on gasoline, diesel fuels, and special fuels to be adjusted annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index.

Present to speak for information only was Dr. Shawn Wilson, Secretary, Dept. of Transportation & Development, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 379-1232.

Present to speak for information only was Mr. Ben Vincent, Economist, Legislative Fiscal Office, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7233.

Present to speak in support were Mr. Jason El Koubi, One Acadiana, 804 East St. Mary Boulevard, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 233-2705; Mr. Christian Garrison, Superintendent, Barriere Construction, One Galleria Boulevard, Suite 1650, Metairie, LA 70001, (504) 581-7283; Mr. Riley Berthelot, West Baton Rouge Parish President, 4185 Fitzgerald Street, Addis, LA 70710, (225) 413-6713; Mr. Terry Baugh, The R Group II, 101 Blazier Lane, West Monroe, LA 71292, (318) 998-3840; Mr. Gary LaGrange, Executive Director, Ports Association of Louisiana, 2508 State Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 452-1557; Mr. Robert Travis Scott, President, Public Affairs Research Council, 4664 Jamestown Avenue, Suite 300, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 926-8414; Mr. Tom Yura, Senior Vice President and General Manager, BASF, 8404 River Road, Geismar, LA 70734, (225) 339-7226; Mr. Gordon Nelson, Vice President, Louisiana Goodroads & Transportation Association, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 678-6674; and Mr. Reldon Owens, Diamond B Construction, 2090 Industrial Park Road, Alexandria, LA 71303, (318) 427-1300.

Present to speak in opposition were Ms. Dawn Starns, National Federation of Independent Business, 530 Lakeland, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 218-0847; Mr. Cecil J. Cavanaugh, East Baton Rouge Parish Chamber of Commerce, 10165 Grandeur Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 715-6351; Mr. Juan Howard, Donald Trump Campaign Field Coordinator, 507 Oak Point Drive, (504) 715-7807; Ms. Glenda Pollard, 7920 Wayside Drive, (225) 921-6286; Ms. Linda Vinsanau, 1605 Houma Boulevard, Metairie, LA 70001, (504) 909-9927; Mr. Al Greig, St. Martin Parish Executive Committee, 1401 South Main Street, St. Martinville, LA 70582, (850) 240-1383; Mr. Rick Payton, 3105 Palm Vista, Metairie, LA 70003, (504) 400-8700; Mr. Jonathan Davis, Capital City Young Republicans, 22562 North Lakeshore Drive, Walker, LA 70785, (225) 907-4715; Col. Rob McManess, retired, La. Power Coalition, Madisonville, LA 70447, (985) 218-0135; Ms. Pat McLaury, no address, (225) 755-6595; Ms. Cathy Gautreaux, La. Motor Transportation Association, Post Office Box 80278, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, (225) 928-5682; Mr. Jeffrey Pollard, 7920 Wayside Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 288-8282; Mr. Jim Crumling, Acadiana Patriots, 203 Grand Prairie Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 654-2805; Ms. Debbie Kuehne, 9025 Hill Drive,

Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 326-0534; and Mr. John Kay, Americans for Prosperity, 7815 Office Park, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (318) 423-3668.

Representative Abramson offered amendments to modify allocation of the proceeds of the tax; remove the termination date of the tax; and change the method of indexing the tax. Representative Abramson 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, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Huval, Ivey, James, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea. These were offered and deleted.

Representative Schexnayder offered amendments to delete the amendments proposed by Representative Abramson and to adopt similar amendments with the addition of local control of certain proceeds of the tax. Representative Schexnayder offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Horton, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

Representative Jim Morris offered amendments to make the effectiveness of proposed law contingent on the passage of a Constitutional Amendment relative to the Transportation Trust Fund and House Bill No. 119 and House Bill No. 598 of the 2017 Regular Session. Representative Jim Morris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Horton, Huval, Ivey, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Schexnayder offered a motion to report House Bill No. 632 with amendments, to which Representative Seabaugh objected. House Bill No. 632 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas, 7 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bouie, Davis, Jimmy Harris, Hunter, Ivey, James, Schexnayder, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea. Representatives DeVillier, Dwight, Horton, Huval, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, and Seabaugh voted nay. Representative Abramson abstained.

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. 632 is available upon request.

### **House Bill No. 561 by Representative Jones**

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 561, which levies a ½ cent state sales and use tax and dedicates the proceeds to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation and Infrastructure Fund.

There was no further discussion on the bill.

Representative Abramson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 561. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 561 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, James, 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 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Abramson, Bouie, Davis, DeVillier, Dwight, Jimmy Harris, Horton, Hunter, Huval, Ivey, James, Jay Morris, Jim Morris, Schexnayder, Seabaugh, Stokes, and Thibaut voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Neil C. Abramson  
House Committee on Ways and Means