

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2018 Regular Session  
April 6, 2018

### **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 Mike Huval, vice chairman  
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.  
Representative Rodney Lyons  
Representative Barbara M. Norton  
Representative Jerome Richard  
Representative Joseph A. Stagni  
Representative Malinda B. White  
Representative Mark Wright

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Stephanie Hilferty  
Representative C. Denise Marcelle  
Representative Stephen E. Pugh  
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith

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

Tina Righteous, attorney  
Valarie Banks, secretary

David Gauthier, analyst

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Christina Porter, clerk  
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms  
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**House Bill No. 408 by Representative Jenkins**

House Bill No. 408 provides relative to reimbursement rates set by local governing authorities for emergency medical services.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to voluntarily defer House Bill No. 408 and reschedule it to the April 13, 2018, meeting. Without objection, House Bill No. 408, the motion to voluntarily defer and reschedule House Bill No. 408 to the April 13, 2018, meeting passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Norton, Richard, White, and Wright voted yea.

**House Resolution No. 53 by Representative James**

Representative James presented House Resolution No. 53, which creates a task force to study certain policies of the Baton Rouge Police Department.

Representative Huval offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Resolution No. 53. Without objection, action on House Resolution No. 53 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Norton, Richard, White, and Wright voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 261 by Senator Erdey**

Senator Erdey presented Senate Bill No. 261, which provides for certain insurance benefits for firemen and law enforcement officers who suffer a catastrophic injury resulting in permanent and total disability caused by an individual with the specific intent to kill an officer while the fireman or officer is engaged in the performance of his official duties.

Alton Asby, East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Department, 218 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 936-1700, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 261.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 261 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 261 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Norton, Richard, Stagni, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 214 by Senator Erdey**

Senator Erdey presented Senate Bill No. 214, which provides relative to the disposition of unused books in the Livingston Parish Library.

Representative Huval offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 214 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 214 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Stagni, and Wright voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 263 by Senator Erdey**

Senator Erdey presented Senate Bill No. 263, which is a constitutional amendment to permit the donation of the use of public equipment and personnel to the state or a political subdivision.

Representative Huval offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 263 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 263 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Stagni, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 516 by Representative Guinn**

Representative Guinn presented House Bill No. 516, which provides relative to waterworks districts in Jefferson Davis Parish.

Representative Huval offered amendments to make the \$150 maximum per diem applicable to all waterworks districts in Jefferson Davis Parish. Representative Huval 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, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Stagni, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Richard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 516 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 516 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Stagni, and Wright voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 850 by Representative Steve Carter**

Representative Steve Carter presented House Bill No. 850, which creates the Cypress Point Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Nick Felton, Cypress Point Homeowner's Association, no address given, (504) 450-6679, spoke in support of House Bill No. 850.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 850 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 850 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Stagni, and Wright voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 96 by Representative Richard**

Representative Richard presented House Bill No. 96, which provides relative to local sales taxes in Lafourche Parish.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to add a requirement for voter approval of the reinstatement of the sales tax at the original 1% rate. Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Norton objected. The secretary called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas, 1 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Richard, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea. Representative Norton voted nay. Representative Berthelot abstained.

James B. Cantrelle, mayor-president, Lafourche Parish, 118 Cantrelle Drive, Raceland, LA 70394, (985) 805-0007, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 96.

Daniel Lorraine, Lafourche Parish Council, 134 E. 176<sup>th</sup> Street, Golden Meadow, LA, 70357, (985) 438-4122, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 96.

Representative Richard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 96 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 96 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

**House Bill No. 410 by Representative Bishop**

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 410, which provides relative to the Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District.

Representative Huval offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 410. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 410 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

**House Bill No. 673 by Representative Barras**

On behalf of Representative Barras, Representative Huval presented House Bill No. 673, which provides relative to the Iberia Economic Development Authority.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 673 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 673 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Stagni, White, and Wright 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.

**Senate Bill No. 19 by Senator Cortez**

On behalf of Senator Cortez, Representative Huval presented Senate Bill No. 19, which provides relative to the civil service status of employees of the Housing Authority of the City of Lafayette.

Representative Billiot offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 19 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 19 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 83 by Senator Perry**

On behalf of Senator Perry, Representative Huval presented Senate Bill No. 83, which provides relative to qualifications of the chief of police for the town of Gueydan.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 83 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 83 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

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

### **Senate Bill No. 128 by Senator Perry**

On behalf of Senator Perry, Representative Huval presented Senate Bill No. 128, which authorizes the governing authority of Acadia Parish to employ its own attorneys to represent it generally.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 128 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 128 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

### **Senate Bill No. 172 by Senator Perry**

On behalf of Senator Perry, Representative Huval presented Senate Bill No. 172, which authorizes the governing authority of the city of Scott to levy an additional one percent sales tax, subject to voter approval.

Representative Billiot offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 172 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 172 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 677 by Representative Jackson**

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 677, which provides public defenders the option to enter the parish government's health care system.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to (1) remove provisions that provide that the district public defender and his employees are considered employees of the parish; (2) require the district public defender office to pay the employer portion of the health insurance premium unless paid by the parish governing authority; and (3) authorize the parish governing authority to pay public defender employee premiums. Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

James T. Dixon, Jr., Louisiana Public Defender Board, 301 Main Street, Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 219-9305, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 677.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 677 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 677 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 725 by Representative James**

Representative James presented House Bill No. 725, which provides that the positions of police chief and deputy police chief in certain municipalities are in the unclassified service.

Representative Berthelot offered amendments to provide for leaves of absence from the classified service rather than resignations from the classified service by a person taking the chief or deputy chief position. Representative Berthelot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Richard, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Bouie offered amendments that Attorney Tina Righteous explained would remove provisions relative to deputy chiefs of police so that the bill would apply only to chiefs of police. Representative Bouie 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, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Stagni, and Wright voted yea.

Jennifer Harding, Progressive Social Network, 1634 Letitia Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 725.

Jennifer Carwile, Together Baton Rouge and Progressive Social Network, 1944 Country Club Drive, no city given, (704) 526-8097, spoke in support of House Bill No. 725.

Gary Meise, Together Baton Rouge, 755 Arlington Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 508-2500, spoke in support of House Bill No. 725.

Myra Richardson, North Baton Rouge Blue Ribbon Commission, 4333 E. Maribel Court, no city given, (225) 747-6474, spoke in support of House Bill No. 725.

Corporal Jenny Bourgeois, Baton Rouge Union of Police, 301 Main Street, Suite 155, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 505-5898, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 725.

John Delgado, Baton Rouge Police Union, 251 Florida Street, Suite 313, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 378-3001, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 725.

Ernest Stephens, Louisiana AFL-CIO, 420 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 383-5741, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 725.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 725. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 725 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 6 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Adoption of the minutes of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs from 2017 Regular Session committee meetings dated April 20, April 27, May 3, May 11, May 18, May 24, and June 1, 2017**

This item was deferred to the April 13, 2018, meeting of the committee.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Bouie offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Davis, Dwight, Edmonds, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: