

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2018 Regular Session
April 27, 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 9:01 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 Paula P. Davis
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Cedric B. Glover
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Mike Huval, vice chairman
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Barbara M. Norton
Representative Stephen E. Pugh
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Mark Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Joseph Bouie, Jr.
Representative Stephen C. Dwight
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Joseph A. Stagni

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Valarie Banks, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 93 by Senator Mizell**

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 93, which requires that notice of intent and proposition for ad valorem taxes levied for volunteer fire departments indicate that a portion of tax proceeds will be paid to retirement systems.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 93 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 93 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Edmonds, Hilferty, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, White, and Wright voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 544 by Senator Mills

Senator Mills presented Senate Bill No. 544, which authorizes certain parish tourism commissions to levy a hotel occupancy tax and overnight campsite parking tax to be distributed pursuant a cooperative endeavor agreement with the economic development authority.

Representative Berthelot offered amendments to change the maximum rate on the hotel occupancy tax from \$4.95 per night per room to 5-1/2% of the room rent and remove provisions for an additional tax on paid overnight parking at campsites. 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, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, White, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 544 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 544 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, White, and Wright 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.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 51, which creates the Ancestors Burial Ground and Cemetery Preservation Commission.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments to:

1. Replace the director of the office of cultural development with the director of the division of historic preservation as a member of the commission.
2. Replace the president of the National Assoc. for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Baton Rouge branch with the president of the NAACP as a member of the commission.
3. Add the president of the National Urban League or his designee to the commission.
4. Delete provision designating the state archaeologist and director of the office of cultural development as chair of the commission and provide for election of a chairman.
5. Change deadline for the submission of a report to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs from Feb. 1, 2019, to within sixth months of the commission's first meeting.
6. Add requirements that commission present two additional reports to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs.
7. Add provision authorizing commission to form any number and configuration of committees.

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, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, White, and Wright voted yea.

Kathe Hambrick, River Road African Burial Ground, 40149 Coontrap Road, Gonzales, LA 70737, (225) 206-1205, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 51.

Debbie Martin, Westside Cemetery Preservation, 347 Avenue A, Port Allen, LA 70767, (225) 276-4337, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 51.

Joan Garner, 909 Simmes Street, New Orleans, LA, (504) 908-1638, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 51.

Thomas J. Durant, Ph.D., River Road African American Museum, Donaldsonville, LA, (225) 572-8326, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 51.

Christopher Meeks, P.O. Box 231861, New Orleans, LA 70813, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 51.

Janice Dickerson, Mount Zion Baptist Association, Inc., 2055 Ory Drive, Brusly, LA 70719, (225) 316-0091, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 51.

Owusu Bandele, 10500 Foster Road, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 775-9155, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 51.

Leon A. Waters, Louisiana Museum of African American History, P.O. Box 850906, New Orleans, LA 70185, (504) 432-9901, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 51.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Smith, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 487 by Senator Appel

Senate Bill No. 487 authorizes investigative powers to the Jefferson Parish Inspector General's Office relative to the Jefferson Parish School Board.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 487. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 487 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Richard, Smith, White, and Wright voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 46 by Representative Marcelle

House Concurrent Resolution No. 46 creates a task force to study certain policies of the Baton Rouge Police Department.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 46. Without objection, action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 46 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, Smith, White, and Wright voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 518 by Senator Appel

On behalf of Senator Appel, Representative Hilferty presented Senate Bill No. 518, which provides for the collection of proceeds of fees from the University Neighborhood Security and Improvement District.

Representative White offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 518 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 518 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, White, and Wright voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 496 by Senator Ward

On behalf of Senator Ward, Representative Berthelot presented Senate Bill No. 496, which creates regional authority for certain infrastructure needs and provides relative to taxing powers and uses.

Representative Berthelot offered amendments to modify procedures for notification of mortgage holders regarding proceedings against property for unpaid parcel fees. 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, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, White, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 496 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 496 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Davis offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Davis, Edmonds, Glover, Hilferty, Huval, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Richard, White, and Wright voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: