

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2019 Regular Session  
May 2, 2019

### **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 8:59 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 Mary DuBuisson  
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 C. Denise Marcelle  
Representative Barbara M. Norton  
Representative Stephen E. Pugh  
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith  
Representative Joseph A. Stagni  
Representative Malinda B. White  
Representative Mark Wright

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Paula P. Davis  
Representative Stephanie Hilferty

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tina Righteous, attorney  
Valarie Banks, secretary  
David Gauthier, analyst

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms  
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**House Bill No. 40 by Representative Chad Brown**

Representative Chad Brown presented House Bill No. 40, which authorizes the governing authority of Assumption Parish to levy a parking and use tax within recreational vehicle parks.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 40 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 40 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, DuBuisson, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 43 by Representative Jimmy Harris**

Representative Jimmy Harris presented House Bill No. 43, which authorizes the governing authority of the city of New Orleans to levy a tax on short term rentals of overnight lodging.

Representative Bouie offered amendments to require that an amount equal to 25% of the tax proceeds be allocated to New Orleans and Company to market tourism. Representative Bouie offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, DuBuisson, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

John Pourciau, city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 43.

Paul Rainwater, city of New Orleans, no address given, (225) 281-8176, spoke in support of House Bill No. 43.

J. Stephen Perry, New Orleans Company, 2020 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA, (504) 421-3399, spoke in support of House Bill No. 43.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 43 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 43 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, DuBuisson, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 56 by Representative Marcelle**

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 56, which provides relative to the Goodwood Homesites Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Daryl E. Blacher, Goodwood Homesites Crime District, 8251 Gladewood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 329-6166, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 56 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 56 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, DuBuisson, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

**House Bill No. 539 by Representative Marcelle**

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 539, which provides relative to tax increment financing in certain parishes.

Representative Pugh offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Pugh offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the substitute bill was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, DuBuisson, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

Robert Dax, R.W. Dax Associates, 4005 Nicholson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70868, (225) 921-9803, spoke in support of House Bill No. 539.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 539 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 539 was reported by substitute by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, DuBuisson, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

**House Bill No. 533 by Representative Horton**

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 533, which provides relative to metropolitan planning for the town of Haughton and certain areas of Bossier Parish.

Representative Billiot offered amendments to require the town council to hold a public hearing before enacting a zoning ordinance and to provide that zoning ordinances of the town continue in effect until amended by ordinances enacted pursuant to proposed law. Representative Billiot 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, DuBuisson, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, and White voted yea.

Neil Erwin, town of Haughton and Bossier Police Jury, 415 Texas Street, Suite 101, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 920-4110, spoke in support of House Bill No. 533.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 533 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 533 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, DuBuisson, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Smith, White, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 493 by Representative Abramson**

Representative Abramson presented House Bill No. 493, which authorizes the city of New Orleans to establish a homestead exemption audit program in Orleans Parish.

Norman White, chief financial officer for the city of New Orleans, no address given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 493.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 493 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 493 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, DuBuisson, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Smith, White, and Wright voted yea.

**House Bill No. 222 by Representative Duplessis**

Representative Duplessis presented House Bill No. 222, which provides relative to the French Quarter Management District in the city of New Orleans.

Emily Remington Murray, French Quarter Management District, 400 North Peters, Suite 206, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 323-5801, provided her business card to committee members, Exhibit A included in committee records, and spoke in support of House Bill No. 222

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 222 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 222 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Norton, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

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

**House Bill No. 153 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 153, which provides relative to the salaries of certain members of the police department of the city of Houma.

Chief Dana Coleman, Houma Police Department, 500 Honduras Street, Houma, LA 70360, spoke in support of House Bill No. 153.

Representative Norton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 153 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 153 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 154 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 154, which provides relative to work shift cycles of dispatchers employed by the Houma police department.

Captain Bobbie O'Bryan, 500 Honduras Street, Houma, LA 70360, (985) 637-6088, spoke in support of House Bill No. 154.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 154 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 154 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, DuBuisson, Dwight, Edmonds, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Norton, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, and White voted yea.

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

**House Bill No. 80 by Representative Jay Morris**

Representative Jay Morris presented House Bill No. 80, which provides relative to the taxing authority of the Southside Economic Development District of the city of Monroe.

Representative Jay Morris presented material from the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Sue Nicholson, Monroe Chamber of Commerce, 212 Walnut Street, Suite 100, Monroe, LA 71201, (318) 807-4015, spoke in support of House Bill No. 80.

*Vice Chairman Huval in the chair.*

*Chairman Berthelot in the chair.*

Ankur Patel, Texas Motel, 2408 Louisville Avenue, Monroe, LA 71201, (850) 368-9477, spoke in support of House Bill No. 80.

Representative DuBuisson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 80 favorably. No action was taken on the motion.

Charles Theus, Southside Economic Development District, 1711 Arizona Avenue, Monroe, LA 71202, (318) 614-1598, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 80.

Rev. Earl L. Davis, Concerned Clergy of Monroe, 1208 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 117, Monroe, LA 71201, (318) 557-1929, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 80.

Representative Katrina Jackson, Louisiana House District No. 16, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 80.

Representative Marcelle offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 80.

Representative Marcelle withdrew her motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 80.

Representative DuBuisson withdrew her motion to report House Bill No. 80 favorably.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 80. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 80 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, DuBuisson, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Norton, Pugh, Smith, White, and Wright voted yea.

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

**House Bill No. 236 by Representative Billiot**

Representative Billiot presented House Bill No. 236, which authorizes certain parishes to name a sports complex in honor of a living person.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 236 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 236 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Smith, 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.

**House Bill No. 471 by Representative Glover**

Representative Glover presented House Bill No. 471, which provides relative to the secretary for the municipal fire and police civil service board in the city of Shreveport.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 471 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 471 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 44 by Senator Johns**

On behalf of Senator Johns, Representative Dwight presented Senate Bill No. 44, which authorizes the city of Lake Charles to bond certain state sales taxes dedicated to the Lake Charles Civic Center Fund.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 44 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 44 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

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

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The chairman announced that the next meeting of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs was scheduled on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, and the agenda would contain bills he expected to generate lengthy discussions. He asked members to be prepared to stay longer than usual at the next meeting.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Pugh offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berthelot, Billiot, Bouie, Dwight, Glover, Huval, Jenkins, Lyons, Marcelle, Pugh, Smith, Stagni, White, and Wright voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: