

House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
May 14, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter, chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Kenny R. Cox
Representative Raymond J. Crews
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Lawrence "Larry" Frieman
Representative Charles Alexander Henry
Representative Valarie Hodges, vice chairman
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Alan Seabaugh

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nevonda Reed, division director
Jurissa McGuire, attorney
Felicie Jackson, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms
Danny Leming, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 642 by Representative Amedee

Representative Carpenter announced that action on House Bill No. 642, which provides relative to immunization waivers for employees, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 833 by Representative Frieman

Representative Carpenter announced that action on House Bill No. 833, which provides with respect to unemployment insurance benefits, was voluntarily deferred.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 75 by Speaker Schexnayder

On behalf of Speaker Schexnayder, Representative Carpenter presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 75, which requests the Workforce Investment Council and Occupational Forecasting Conference to immediately work with private sector experts to assess short-term and long-term workforce implications and opportunities resulting from COVID-19.

Stephen Barnes, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 635 Cajundome Blvd, Lafayette, LA 70506, (225) 362-1351, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 75.

Dr. Ali Bustamante, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-3128, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 75.

Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-3001, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 75.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 75 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 75 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Horton, Larvadain, and Charles Owen 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 80 by Speaker Schexnayder

On behalf of Speaker Schexnayder, Representative Carpenter presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 80, which requests the Louisiana Workforce Commission to provide clear, consistent, and easily accessible explanations of unemployment benefits and potential ramifications.

Beverly Haydel, Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force, 2977 Fritchie Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (617) 335-9941, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 80.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 80 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 80 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Cormier, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Horton, Larvadain, and Charles Owen voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 217 by Representative Frieman

Representative Frieman presented House Bill No. 217, which provides that neither the employer nor insurer is obligated to authorize an initial evaluation.

Sheral Kellar, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-7561, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 217.

Wayne Fontana, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 1515 Poydras St, Ste 2330, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 680-0156, spoke in support of House Bill No. 217.

Shannon Lindsey, Injured Workers, 1680 Old Spanish Trl, Slidell, LA 70458, (985) 643-1755, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 217.

Mark Zimmerman, Injured Workers, 804 Bayou Pines West, Ste B, Lake Charles, LA 70605, (337) 515-4717, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 217.

Charles Davoli, Injured Workers, 6513 Perkins Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 757-8903, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 217.

Cindy Bishop, Louisiana Orthopedic Association, P O Box 80053, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 217.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 217 favorably, to which Representative Cox objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 217

was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Amedee, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Hodges, Horton, Miguez, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, and Seabaugh voted yea. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Cox, Larvadain, and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 4 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 218 by Representative Frieman

Representative Frieman presented House Bill No. 218, which provides relative to requests made for medical examinations.

Representative Crews offered a motion to report House Bill No. 218 favorably, to which Representative Larvadain objected.

Sheral Kellar, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-7561, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 218.

Wayne Fontana, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 1515 Poydras St, Ste 2330, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 680-0156, spoke in support of House Bill No. 218.

Shannon Lindsey, Injured Workers, 1680 Old Spanish Trl, Slidell, LA 70458, (985) 643-1755, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 218.

The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 218 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Amedee, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Hodges, Horton, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, and Seabaugh voted yea. Representatives Carpenter, Cox, Larvadain, and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 5 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 620 by Representative Beaulieu

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 620 on May 20, 2020. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 620.

Representative Carpenter announced that action on House Bill No. 620, which provides relative to unemployment insurance, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 793 by Representative Gaines

Representative Carpenter announced that action on House Bill No. 793, which provides relative to a presumption of compensability under workers' compensation, was voluntarily deferred.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Brief presentation by the Louisiana Workforce Commission relevant to COVID-19-related unemployment.

Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-3001, spoke for information only.

Dawn Bell, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 831-2611, spoke for information only.

Benny Soulieu, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (337) 278-7795, spoke for information only.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Hodges, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Phelps, and Seabaugh voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Barbara W. Carpenter
House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Date adopted: April 29, 2021