

House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
May 20, 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 9:02 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 S. Reed, division director
Jurissa McGuire, attorney
Felicie Jackson, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms
Clarence Russ, chief sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 by Representative Marcelle**

Representative Marcelle presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 81, which establishes a task force to study and make recommendations relative to the cannabis industry projected workforce demands.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Cormier, Cox, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Horton, Larvadain, and Charles Owen voted yea.

House Bill No. 620 by Representative Beaulieu

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 620 from May 14, 2020. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 620.

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 620, which provides relative to unemployment insurance.

Representative Horton offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill, which provides that benefits claimants receive from unemployment compensation through the CARES Act cannot exceed the amount the claimant would have earned while they were employed.

Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-3001, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 620.

Margaret Mabile, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (985) 513-2823, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 620.

Representative Horton offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. No vote was taken as the author, Representative Beaulieu, stated he would voluntarily defer the bill.

Representative Carpenter announced that action on House Bill No. 620 was voluntarily deferred.

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

Senate Bill No. 461 by Senator Reese

Senator Reese presented Senate Bill No. 461 which provides relative to deferral of certain unemployment insurance benefit charges and employer contributions.

Jim Patterson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, P O Box 80258, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, (225) 928-5388, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 461.

Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-3001, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 461.

Representative Carpenter offered amendments, which make technical changes. Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, and Phelps voted yea.

Representative Cormier offered amendments which would have:

- (1) Changed the deferral of the quarterly reporting of wages from two months to one month;
- (2) Clarified that any federal funds received pursuant to the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act or from any other economic benefit package due to the COVID-19 pandemic shall be applied toward the unemployment compensation trust fund;
- (3) Severed any provision of this Act if it is in conflict with or is preempted by any provision of the CARES Act; and
- (4) Made technical changes.

Representative Cormier offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Frieman objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Cox, Larvadain, and Phelps voted yea. Representatives Amedee, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Horton, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, and Seabaugh voted nay.

Margaret Mabile, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (985) 513-2823, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 461.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 461 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 461 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Amedee, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Horton, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, and Seabaugh voted yea. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Larvadain, and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 2 for information only. 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: 2 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

The committee stood at ease at 10:46 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:57 a.m.

Senate Bill No. 517 by Senator Fields

Senator Fields presented Senate Bill No. 517, which provides for continuation of the weekly death benefit for the surviving spouse of a law enforcement officer upon remarriage.

Representative Larvadain offered amendments which require that the decedent who was employed as a law enforcement officer must have been killed in the line of duty for benefits to continue. Representative Larvadain offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Hodges, Horton, Larvadain, Miguez, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Phelps, and Seabaugh voted yea.

Rebecca Robinson, Legislative Fiscal Office, 900 N 3rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7233, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 517.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 517 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 517 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Hodges, Horton, Larvadain, Miguez, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Phelps, and Seabaugh 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Echols offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Hodges, Horton, Larvadain, Miguez, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, Phelps, and Seabaugh voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: April 29, 2021