

House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Minutes of Meeting
2020 First Extraordinary Session
June 16, 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 11:40 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 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:

Representative Kenny R. Cox

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 62 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 62, which provides for state income tax withholdings on unemployment compensation benefits.

Jason DeCcuir, Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force, 301 Main St, Ste 1500, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, no phone number provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 62.

Representative Echols offered amendments which add that the claimant shall submit to the withholding of state income taxes at a rate of four percent and that the Louisiana Workforce Commission shall electronically report and remit to the Department of Revenue as an employer and require that the Louisiana Workforce Commission consult with the Department of Revenue when promulgating rules and regulations.

Chance McNeely, Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force, 301 Main St, Ste 1500, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (318) 578-5367, spoke in support of House Bill No. 62.

Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Hodges, Larvadain, Miguez, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, and Seabaugh voted yea. Representative Phelps voted nay.

Representative Echols offered amendments which clarify that proposed law applies when temporary federal emergency increases in unemployment compensation benefits are available and add that the claimant is eligible to receive temporary federal emergency increases in unemployment compensation benefits in addition to the maximum weekly benefit amounts and any additional federal base benefit. Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Larvadain, Miguez, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, and Seabaugh voted yea. Representative Phelps voted nay.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 62 with amendments, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 62 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Hodges, Larvadain, Miguez, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, and Seabaugh voted yea. Representative Phelps voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 65 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 65, which requires short-term COVID-19 occupational forecasts.

Camille Conaway, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 451 Florida St, Baton Rouge, LA 70893, (225) 620-5711, spoke in support of House Bill No. 65.

Representative Echols offered amendments which add that the Workforce Investment Council shall work with the Occupational Forecasting Conference and add that the council may make modifications to the conference reports if it has a reasonable basis, and any reports not approved by the council shall not be final. Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Larvadain, Miguez, Charles Owen, and Phelps voted yea.

Meridith Trahan, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1599, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 65.

Dr. Ali Bustamante, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3128, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 65.

Kenneth Burrell, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3001, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 65.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 65 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 65 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Larvadain, Miguez, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, and Phelps 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 17 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 17, which requests certain state agencies and private businesses to recognize the value that justice-involved persons bring to the workforce and society and to act with the intention to empower, train, and employ such individuals.

Representative Carpenter offered amendments which request the division of administration to prioritize and fund reentry initiatives with any future federal funding related to COVID-19 and make technical changes. Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedee, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Larvadain, Miguez, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, and Phelps voted yea.

Scott Payton, Right on Crime, 859 Hicks Rd, Washington, LA 70589, (337) 412-5712, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Liz Mangham, Smart on Crime, 543 Spanish Town Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 939-6169, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 17.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Larvadain, Miguez, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, and Phelps voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 1 for information only. 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 Larvadain offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Larvadain, Miguez, Charles Owen, Robert Owen, and Phelps voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: April 29, 2021