

House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Second Extraordinary Session
October 15, 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 11:03 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 Dodie Horton
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen
Representative Tammy T. Phelps

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Valarie Hodges, vice chairman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jurissa McGuire, attorney
Felicie Jackson, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

Danny Leming, sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed, division director

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 by Senator Cortez

On behalf of Senator Cortez, Representative Beaulieu presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9, which suspends the provision of law providing for an unemployment insurance solvency tax.

Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3001, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 favorably, to which Representative Henry objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Cox, Larvadain, and Phelps voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Horton, and Robert Owen voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 by Senator Reese

On behalf of Senator Reese, Representative Beaulieu presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5, which suspends certain provisions of law relative to the application of certain wages and benefits for the next calendar year.

Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3001, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Henry, Horton, Larvadain, Miguez, Robert Owen, and Phelps voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 55 by Senator Cortez

On behalf of Senator Cortez, Representative Beaulieu presented Senate Bill No. 55, which provides for the unemployment insurance procedure to be applied by the administrator for calendar year 2021.

Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3001, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 55.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 55 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 55 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Frieman, Henry, Horton, Larvadain, Miguez, Robert Owen, and Phelps voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 34 by Representative Landry

Representative Landry presented House Bill No. 34, which provides for an increase in the administrative penalties assessed for the misclassification of employees.

Representative Cox offered amendments which make technical changes and decrease the dollar amount for various administrative penalties. Representative Cox offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Frieman, Henry, Horton, Larvadain, Miguez, Robert Owen, and Phelps voted yea.

Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 N 23rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3001, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 34.

Karen LeBlanc, Legislative Auditor's Office, 1600 N 3rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 339-3950, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 34.

Gary Warren, Central South Carpenters, 2850 Massachusetts Ave, Metairie, LA 70003, (225) 279-2542, spoke in support of House Bill No. 34.

Josh Sonnier, Ironworkers Local #623, 6153 Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, (225) 281-3118, spoke in support of House Bill No. 34.

Julie Cherry, Louisiana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, 429 Government St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 383-5741, spoke in support of House Bill No. 34.

Bob Shcenk, LPI Painting Company, 1511 River Rd, Harahan, LA 70123, no phone number provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 34.

Erika Zucker, Workplace Justice Project at Loyola Law Clinic, 540 Broadway St, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 252-0506, spoke in support of House Bill No. 34.

Jim Patterson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 500 Main St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 928-5388, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 34.

Dawn Starns, National Federation of Independent Businesses, 301 Main St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 287-4626, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 34.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 34 with amendments. Representative Miguez offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 34, to which Representative Cox objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 34 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 7 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Frieman, Henry, Horton, Miguez, and Robert Owen voted yea. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Cox, Larvadain, and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support, 5 in opposition, and 3 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 support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Amedée offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Cox, Crews, Frieman, Henry, Horton, Larvadain, Miguez, Robert Owen, and Phelps voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: April 29, 2021