

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
May 5, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman
Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
Representative Ryan Joseph Bourriaque
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Jason Hughes
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Neil Riser
Representative John M. Stefanski, vice chairman
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Matthew Willard
Representative Mark Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brittany Lea, committee administrative assistant
Mark Mahaffey, deputy director
Alison Pryor, senior attorney
Catherine Zeringue, attorney

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

Alvin Judson, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 97 by Representative LaCombe**

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 97, which removes certain limitations on the exemption from local match requirements for certain rural water system projects.

Representative Riser offered amendments to increase the number of customers a rural water system may service from 1,000 to 1,250 in order to be exempt from the local match requirement. Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Bourriaque, Bryant, Hughes, LaCombe, McMahan, Riser, Stefanski, White, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Bill No. 97 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 97 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Bourriaque, Bryant, Hughes, LaCombe, McMahan, Riser, Stefanski, White, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 347 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 347, a constitutional amendment which establishes certain ad valorem property tax exemptions.

Representative Stefanski in the Chair***Representative Bishop in the Chair***

Ms. Karen White, executive council, Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-5001, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 347.

Mr. Guy Cormier, executive director, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-2835, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 347.

Mr. Edgar Cage, Together Louisiana, 4302 Melban Street, Baker, LA 70714, (225) 274-5808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 347.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Bill No. 347 favorably, to which Representative White objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 347 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Butler, Farnum, Ivey, McMahan, Riser, and Stefanski voted yea. Representatives Bryant, Hughes, LaCombe, Mincey, Phelps, White, and Willard voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 521 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 521, which provides for the notification process for ad valorem reappraisal.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to require notice of reappraisal to be sent by certified mail only for property in which reappraisal results in an increase of more than 50% of the previously assessed value and a homestead exemption is claimed on the property. These provisions apply only in a parish which contains a municipality with a population of more than 340,000. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Ivey, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Phelps, Riser, Stefanski, White, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 521. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 521 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Ivey, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Phelps, Riser, Stefanski, White, and Willard voted yea.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 521 on May 11, 2020. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 521.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 4 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 4, which amends rules relative to participation in the Industrial Tax Exemption Program.

Representative Stefanski in the Chair

Mr. Edgar Cage, Together Louisiana, 4302 Melban Street, Baker, LA 70714, (225) 274-5808, spoke in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

Representative Bishop in the Chair

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments which: (1) change the vote requirement for local governmental entities to designate the parish in which they are located as ITEP Ready from a unanimous vote to a majority vote at a public meeting; and (2) provide local governmental entities within an ITEP Ready parish the opportunity to change their ITEP Ready designation. The change shall be documented and provided to the Board of Commerce and Industry no later than December 31 of any year and shall be effective for one calendar year beginning January 1 of the following calendar year.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Farnum, Ivey, LaCombe, McMahan, Phelps, Riser, Stefanski, White, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Bishop offered technical amendments. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Phelps, Riser, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 4 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 4 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Phelps, Riser, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 531 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 531, which provides for ad valorem tax exemptions for certain property.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 531. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 531 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Ivey, Phelps, Riser, White, and Willard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 526 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 526, a constitutional amendment which establishes an ad valorem tax exemption for certain property subject to a cooperative endeavor agreement requiring the property owner to make payments in lieu of taxes. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 526 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Ivey, LaCombe, McMahan, Phelps, Riser, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 527 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 527, a constitutional amendment which provides for ad valorem tax exemptions for certain property. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 527 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Ivey, LaCombe, McMahan, Phelps, Riser, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 635 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 635, which authorizes and provides for an ad valorem tax exemption that allows cooperative endeavor agreements between taxing authorities and non-residential property owners that require payments in lieu of ad valorem taxes. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 635 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Ivey, LaCombe, McMahan, Phelps, Riser, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

COMMITTEE ROOM 3 TO BE USED FOR OVERFLOW

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Bishop announced that the following legislative instruments will be voluntarily deferred: House Bill No. 504, House Bill No. 508, and House Bill No. 525.

Persons who do not feel comfortable giving testimony in person at this time may submit a prepared statement in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee:

A. Any interested person or any committee member may file with the committee a prepared statement concerning a specific instrument or matter under consideration by the committee or concerning any matter within the committee's scope of authority, and the committee records shall reflect receipt of such statement and the date and time thereof.

B. Any person who files a prepared statement which contains data or statistical information shall include in such prepared statement sufficient information to identify the source of the data or statistical information. For the purposes of this Paragraph, the term "source" shall mean a publication, website, person, or other source from which the data or statistical information contained in the prepared statement was obtained by the person or persons who prepared the statement.

NOTE: Only statements mailed to leab@legis.la.gov and received prior to 12 noon, Sunday, May 3, will be included in the record for this committee meeting. All persons desiring to participate in the meeting shall utilize appropriate protective health measures and observe the recommended and appropriate social distancing.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Ivey, Phelps, Riser, White, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Stuart J. Bishop
House Committee on Ways and Means