

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2020 First Extraordinary Session
June 15, 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 Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Neil Riser
Representative John M. Stefanski, vice chairman
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Matthew Willard
Representative Mark Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Jason Hughes
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Tammy T. Phelps

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. 68 by Representative Deshotel**

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 68, which establishes an income or corporation franchise tax credit for certain broadband coverage providers.

Representative Stefanski offered in-concept amendments to specify that structures eligible for the tax credit authorized in proposed law must be located in Louisiana. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Mincey offered amendments to change the wording on page 1, line 20 to "the time the broadband network is made available to the structure". After discussion, Representative Mincey withdrew the amendment. No vote was taken.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 68 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 68 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Willard, and Wright voted yea.

Mr. Jason Hunt, Hunt Fiber Networks, 522 Bedico Parkway, Madisonville, LA 70447, (985) 515-9910, spoke in support of House Bill No. 68.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee documents.

House Bill No. 69 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 69, which provides for a sales and use tax exemption on the sales of certain fiber-optic cables.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to add the fiber-optic sales and use tax exemption to the present law list of mandatory local sales and use tax exemptions. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by

a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, White, Willard, and Wright voted yeas.

Secretary Kimberly Robinson, Department of Revenue, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 69. (No Witness Card Submitted)

Ms. Karen White, Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-5001, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 69.

Mr. Jason Hunt, Hunt Fiber Networks, 522 Bedico Parkway, Madisonville, LA 70447, (985) 515-9910, spoke in support of House Bill No. 69.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 69 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 69 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, White, Willard, and Wright voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 4 by Senator Foil

Senator Foil presented Senate Bill No. 4, which extends the sunset of the research and development tax credit.

Mr. Dino Paternostro, The Small Business Innovation Research Consortium (SBIRC), Baton Rouge, LA, (504) 756-7901, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 4.

Representative Bourriaque in the chair

Dr. Trivia Frazier, Obatala Sciences, INC., University of New Orleans, 2000 Lakeshore Drive #4020, New Orleans, LA 70148, (504) 300-0266, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 4.

Dr. Guangdi Wang, Zenopharm, LLC, 1441 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 236-5452, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 4.

Ms. Missy Rogers, president and founder, Noble Plastics, INC, 413 Marilyn Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 781-1973, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 4.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 4 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 4 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu,

Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. 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 support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Representative Bishop in the chair

House Bill No. 25 by Representative Wright

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 25 from June 11, 2020. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 25.

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 25, which authorizes carry-back provisions for the net operating loss deduction for purposes of calculating corporate income tax.

Mr. Jason DeCuir, chairman of the Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force, 301 Main Street, Suite 1500, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 334-0040, spoke in support of House Bill No. 25.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 25 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 25 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright 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

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. 18.

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 12:00 p.m., Sunday, June 14, 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 Butler offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Stefanski, White, Willard, and Wright voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Stuart J. Bishop
House Committee on Ways and Means