

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2020 First Extraordinary Session
June 17, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative John M. Stefanski, vice chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 8:59 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 Neil Riser
Representative John M. Stefanski, vice chairman
Representative Matthew Willard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Mark Wright

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***Representative Bishop in the chair*****Senate Bill No. 13 by Senator Ward**

Senator Ward presented Senate Bill No. 13, which provides for the Louisiana New Markets Jobs Act.

Representative Riser offered amendments which: (1) change the definition of "applicable percentage"; (2) increase the amount an applicant must invest in La. qualified active low income community businesses or other La. investments from \$50M to \$100M; (3) increase the amount of qualified equity investment authority for certification and allocation for applicants beginning August 1, 2020, from \$50M to \$75M; and (4) require the Department of Revenue to begin accepting applications on August 1, 2020, for allocation and certification of up to \$75M of qualified equity investments.

Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Stefanski, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 13 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 13 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Stefanski, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Stefanski in the chair**Senate Bill No. 6 by Senator Allain**

On behalf of Senator Allain, Representative Bishop presented Senate Bill No. 6, which provides for the suspension of the corporation franchise tax and initial corporation franchise tax for small business corporations.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 6 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 6 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Butler, Farnum, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Stefanski, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 1 in opposition. 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. 70 by Representative Jenkins

Representative Jenkins presented House Bill No. 70, which extends Enterprise Zone Program incentives to essential critical infrastructure workers by authorizing the payment of a one-time hazard pay rebate.

Representative Bishop offered amendments which: (1) specify the job sectors in which a worker must be employed in order to be eligible for the one-time hazard pay rebate; (2) reduce the threshold amount of adjusted gross income a worker can not exceed in order to be eligible for the one-time hazard pay rebate from \$70,000 or less per year to \$50,000 or less per year; (3) remove requirement that the list of eligible applicants for the one-time hazard pay rebate be approved by the State Board of Commerce and Industry; and (4) delete authorization for an additional \$25M of one-time hazard pay rebates to be paid by the treasurer if the additional rebates are approved by the JLCB and instead authorize for additional rebates to be paid if monies are available and the rebates are approved by the JLCB.

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, Ivey, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Stefanski, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Stefanski offered in-concept amendments to change the fund in which the treasurer is to make payments of the rebates from the La. Recovery Main Street Recovery Fund to the Coronavirus Local Recovery Allocation Fund. Representative Stefanski 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, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Stefanski, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 70 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 70 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Hughes, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 by Senator Foil

Senator Foil presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4, which requests the study of the feasibility of establishing a tax credit program as a funding mechanism for public-private partnership investment in Louisiana infrastructure projects.

Mr. Rodney Braxton, Southern Strategy Group of Louisiana, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, and Riser voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 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.

House Resolution No. 23 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Resolution No. 23, which requests a study of data points used for performance analysis by the Department of Economic Development.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 23 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 23 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Farnum, Ivey, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, and Riser voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

COMMITTEE ROOM 3 TO BE USED FOR OVERFLOW

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 17, 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 Ivey 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, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, and Riser voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Stuart J. Bishop
House Committee on Ways and Means