

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
May 6, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Mike Huval, chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Mike Huval, chairman
Representative Mary DuBuisson
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Markham Scott McKnight
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Joseph A. Stagni, vice chairman
Representative Matthew Willard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Cedric B. Glover

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Valarie Banks, committee administrative assistant
David Gauthier, analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Kylan Melancon, clerk
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 121 by Representative Seabaugh

Representative Seabaugh presented House Bill No. 121, which provides relative to employees of the Shreveport police department.

Ben Raymond, Shreveport Police Department, 1234 Texas Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 673-6902, spoke to provide information on House Bill No. 121.

Chance McNeely, city of Shreveport, 6252 Morgan Bend Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, spoke in favor of House Bill No. 121.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 121 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 121 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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 Bill No. 191 by Representative McMahan

Representative McMahan presented House Bill No. 191, which provides relative to the biometric data of fire employees.

Representative Huval offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 191. Representative Huval offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, Farnum, Freiberg, Gadberry, Kerner, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Chad Major, Professional Fire Fighters of Louisiana, 1339 Highway 67, Slaughter, LA 70777, spoke in support of House Bill No. 191.

Chief Nelson, city of New Orleans Fire Department, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-4721, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 191.

Representative Huval offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 191. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 191 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, Farnum, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Schamerhorn, Stagni, 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.

Senate Bill No. 193 by Senator Morris

Senator Morris presented Senate Bill No. 193, which provides relative to civil service vacancies.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 193 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 193 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, Farnum, Gadberry, Green, Lyons, Marcelle, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 229 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 229, which provides relative to the chief of police in the village of Dodson. He provided the committee members a letter from the village of Dodson dated May 5, 2021, which is included in the committee records as Exhibit A, in support of House Bill No. 229.

Kevin Hayes, Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 412 North 4th Street, Suite 328, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 229.

Karen White, Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-5001, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 229.

Fabian Blache, executive director, Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 North 10th Street, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3261, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 229.

Representative Huval offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 229. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 229 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 341 by Representative Freeman

On behalf of Representative Freeman, Steven Morrell, Upper Audubon Security District, 201 Audubon Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 858-9839, presented House Bill No. 341, which provides relative to the parcel fee imposed within the Upper Audubon Security District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 341 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 341 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Stagni voted yea.

House Bill No. 342 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 342, which authorizes St. Tammany Parish to require testing for secondary contaminants in drinking water.

Representative Huval offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 342. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 342 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Stagni voted yea.

House Bill No. 412 by Representative LaCombe

House Bill No. 412 provides relative to the reemployment of employees who have resigned or retired from the classified service due to injury or medical condition.

Representative Huval offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 412. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 412 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Stagni voted yea.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 412 at a later point in the meeting. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 412.

House Bill No. 415 by Representative Gaines

Representative Gaines presented House Bill No. 415, which provides for the creation of tourism recovery and improvement districts.

Vice Chairman, Representative Joseph Stagni, in the chair.

Kyle Edmiston, Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau, 520 Hodges Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, spoke in support of House Bill No. 415.

Chairman Huval in the chair.

Jill Kidder, Louisiana Travel Association/Louisiana Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, 14141 Airline Highway, Suite 1Q, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in support of House Bill No. 415. She presented a document from CIVITAS entitled "Louisiana Tourism Recovery & Improvement Districts (TRIDs) Proposed Law: Key Provisions", which is included in the committee records of this meeting and labeled Exhibit B.

Jo Banner, Fee-Fo-Lay Café, 5593 Highway 18, Vacherie, LA 70090, (225) 206-1993, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 415.

Chairman Huval read into the record that material was received via email in opposition to House Bill No. 415 and is included in the committee records of this meeting and labeled Exhibit C.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 415 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 415 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Farnum, Gadberry, Green, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 28 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 679 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 679, which provides relative to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

Representative Newell offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 679. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 679 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Farnum, Gadberry, Green, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 174 by Senator Luneau

Senator Luneau presented Senate Bill No. 174, which provides relative to the membership of the Alexandria/Pineville Area Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors.

Representative Huval offered amendments to change the name of the appointing entity from Greater Alexandria/Pineville Chamber of Commerce to Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce. Representative Huval offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Farnum, Gadberry, Green, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 174 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 174 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Farnum, Gadberry, Green, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 412 by Representative LaCombe

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 412 from earlier in the meeting. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 412.

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 412, which provides relative to the reemployment of employees who have resigned or retired from the classified service due to injury or medical condition.

Chad Major, Professional Fire Fighters of Louisiana, 1339 Highway 67, Slaughter, LA 70777, spoke in support of House Bill No. 412.

Representative Huval offered a motion to reconsider the vote taken earlier in this meeting to voluntarily defer House Bill No. 412. Without objection, the vote to voluntarily defer House Bill No. 412 was reconsidered by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Farnum, Gadberry, Green, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 412 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 412 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Gadberry, Green, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard 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.

Senate Bill No. 184 by Senator Hewitt

On behalf of Senator Hewitt, Representative Robert Owen presented Senate Bill No. 184, which provides for the appointment of members to the nominating committee for the board of commissioners of St. Tammany Parish Hospital Service District No. 2.

Representative DuBuisson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 184 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 184 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Stagni voted yea.

House Bill No. 261 by Representative Stagni

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 261, which provides relative to the qualifications of the members of the municipal fire and police civil service board.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to remove proposed law that prohibits a person from being appointed to serve on the board if he has been convicted of or terminated from previous employment for certain criminal or civil offenses in the 10 years prior to appointment and instead prohibit a person from being appointed to serve on the board if he has been convicted of a felony in the 10 years prior to appointment. Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Stagni voted yea.

Edgar Cage, Together Louisiana, 2019 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 261.

Jennifer Carwile, Together Baton Rouge, 1855 Old Carriage Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 261.

Chad Major, Professional Fire Fighters of Louisiana, 1339 Highway 67, Slaughter, LA 70777, spoke in support of House Bill No. 261.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 261 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 261 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 79 by Senator Ward

Representative Farnum in the chair.

On behalf of Senator Ward, Representative Huval presented Senate Bill No. 79, which provides relative to the governance of fire protection districts created by Pointe Coupee Parish.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 79 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 79 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

Chairman Huval in the chair.

House Bill No. 634 by Representative Glover

House Bill No. 634 provides relative to the secretary for the municipal fire and police civil service board in certain municipalities.

Representative Huval offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 634. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 634 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Farnum, Gadberry, Kerner, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Mike Huval
House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Date adopted: