

House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
May 24, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Vincent J. Pierre, chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Vincent J. Pierre, chairman
Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass, vice chairman
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Larry Selders

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Cedric B. Glover
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

LeeAnne Sharlow, attorney
Carlesia Bibbins, attorney
Brandy Phillips, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

Claire Dill, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 by Representative Fontenot**

Representative Fontenot presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 67, which urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to study safe speeds on Hwy. 20 from the city limits of Thibodaux northbound to Hwy. 304.

Representative Firment offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pierre, Brass, Cormier, Firment, Horton, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders 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.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9, which approves the annual state integrated coastal protection plan for Fiscal Year 2022, as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board. Senator Lambert presented a PowerPoint entitled "Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Plan", Exhibit A, and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which are included in the committee records.

Mr. Bruce Haase, CPRA, 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 342-2178, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9. Mr. Haase presented a portion of a PowerPoint entitled "Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Plan", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Charles Owen offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 favorably, to which Representative Cormier objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Pierre, Brass, Firment, Horton, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea. Representative Cormier voted nay.

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. 87 by Senator Connick

Senator Connick presented Senate Bill No. 87, which is a constitutional amendment to provide for the taxing authority of levee districts.

Representative Pierre offered amendments to:

1. Remove an exception that the five mill tax only apply to the Orleans Levee District and all levee districts created after Jan. 1, 2006, and existing on Jan. 1, 2021.
2. Add an election date of Oct. 9, 2021, for the majority of the electors in the district failed to approve the constitutional amendment in an election held on Oct. 9, 2021, or a levee district created after Oct. 9, 2021, relative to the authority to annually levy a tax on certain property not exempt from taxation.

Representative Pierre offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pierre, Brass, Cormier, Firment, Horton, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Mr. David Peterson, Coastal Protection & Restoration, 38147 Charleston Road, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 342-6505, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 87.

Mr. Robert Banmann, Phillips 66, 616 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 328-0330, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 87.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 87 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 87 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pierre, Brass, Cormier, Firment, Horton, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Selders offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Pierre, Brass, Cormier, Firment, Horton, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Vincent J. Pierre
House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Date adopted:

The committee has acknowledged on _____, that these minutes were prepared in accordance with the rules of the House of Representatives.