

**Joint Meeting of House Committee on Ways and Means
and Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs**

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Interim Session
August 17, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 11:59 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

HOUSE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, co-chairman
Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
Representative Rhonda Butler
Representative Phillip DeVillier
Representative Jeremy LaCombe
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Malinda White
Representative Mark Wright

HOUSE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Ryan Bourriaque
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Tanner Magee
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Matthew Willard

SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator R. L. Bret Allain, II, co-chairman
Senator Joseph Bouie
Senator Eddie J. Lambert
Senator W. Jay Luneau

Senator Patrick McMath
Senator John C. "Jay" Morris
Senator Karen Carter Peterson
Senator J. Rogers Pope
Senator Mike Reese, vice-chairman
Senator Gary L. Smith, Jr.
Senator Rick Ward, III
Senator Louis C. "Louie" Bernard (Interim member)
Senator Stewart Cathey, Jr. (Interim member)

SENATE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brittany Lea, House committee administrative assistant
Alison Pryor, House senior attorney
Catherine Zeringue, House attorney
Shannon Simpson, Senate senior secretary
Anita Carr, Senate administrative secretary
Curry Lann, Senate senior attorney
Leonore Heavey, Senate chief revenue counsel
Martha Hess, Senate counsel
Deborah Vivien, Senate budget analyst
Bobbie Hunter, Senate budget analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, House sergeant at arms
James Bullock, Senate sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

To review and approve the third-party convenience fee scheduled for certain online transactions pursuant to R.S. 49:316.1 for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Mr. Rob Shadoin, deputy secretary, and Mr. Alvin Henry, Jr., statewide program manager, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-2843, addressed the committee concerning the fees on certain online transactions and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative DeVillier shared that he had received complaint calls from constituents regarding paper tags used to adhere to the animals. Representative DeVillier and Mr. Henry discussed the new licensing online purchase implementation and transaction fee.

Senator Reese and Mr. Christopher Nelson, CEO, Global Processing Partners (GPP), 170 New Camellia Boulevard, Suite 100, Covington, LA 70433, (225) 316-0253, discussed the comparison of credit card fees to those of Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments.

Senator Reese and Mr. Henry discussed the department's E-tag/Text-to-Tag functionality to allow hunters the ability to text and validate their deer or turkey harvest via smartphone or website rather than by paper tags.

Representative Mincey and Mr. Nelson discussed the comparison of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries third-party convenience fees to other Louisiana state departments.

Representative Beaulieu and Mr. Henry discussed transaction fees collected which cover technology costs submitted directly to the vendor.

Senator Smith and Mr. Henry discussed the fees associated with lifetime hunting and fishing licenses.

Senator Allain offered a motion to approve the third-party convenience fee schedules with regard to civil fines and licensing solutions by the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Without objection, the motion to approve the third-party convenience fee schedules passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Senators Allain, Bouie, Lambert, Luneau, McMath, Morris, Peterson, Pope, Reese, Smith, Ward, Bernard, and Cathey voted yea.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to approve the third-party convenience fee schedules with regard to civil fines and licensing solutions by the House Committee on Ways and Means for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Without objection, the motion to approve the third-party convenience fee schedules passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Butler, DeVillier, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, White, and Wright voted yea.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Persons who do not feel comfortable giving testimony in person at this time may submit a prepared statement 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 hwmc@legis.la.gov and received prior to noon on Monday, August 16, 2021, 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.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Chairman Stuart J. Bishop
House Committee on Ways and Means