

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
April 13, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m. in Room 6, 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 Bourriaque
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Mark Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Jason Hughes
Representative Matthew Willard

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brittany Lea, committee administrative assistant
Alison Pryor, senior attorney
Catherine Zeringue, attorney

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Riser in the chair

House Bill No. 277 by Representative Bishop

(The video and audio recordings for the beginning of the House Committee on Ways and Means meeting is not available due to technical difficulties in House Committee Room 6.)

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 277, which restricts the allocation of cash line of credit capacity for certain projects and provides for the recommendation of projects for lines of credit.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 277 favorably, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 277 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Butler, DeVillier, Farnum, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, and White voted yea. Representative Phelps voted nay.

Ms. Karen White, executive counsel, Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA), 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-5001, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 277.

House Bill No. 302 by Representative Bishop

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 302, which provides relative to capital outlay.

Mr. Mark Moses, assistant commissioner, Office of Facility Planning and Control (OFPC), Division of Administration (DOA), P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9654, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 302.

Representative Riser offered conceptual amendments which change the responsible party required to issue the certificate of completion from the office of facility planning and control to the entity administering the project. Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Butler, DeVillier, Farnum, Ivey, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, Riser, and White voted yea.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 302 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 302 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Butler, DeVillier, Farnum, Ivey, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, Riser, and White voted yea.

Chairman Bishop in the chair

The committee recessed at 9:26 a.m. The committee reconvened at 9:35 a.m.

House Bill No. 199 by Representative Schexnayder

Speaker Schexnayder presented House Bill No. 199, a constitutional amendment which provides for the State and Local Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Commission.

Mr. Jason DeCuir, chairman of the Centralized Sales and Use Tax Administration Study Group, 504 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 317-3345, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199 and presented a PowerPoint entitled "Streamlined Sales and Use Tax", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Beaulieu, District 48, 209 West Main Street, 4th floor, Suite 403, New Iberia, LA 70560, (337) 373-4051, spoke in sponsorship of this measure.

Mr. Joseph Lopinto, sheriff, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, 1233 Westbank Expressway, Gretna, LA 70053, (504) 363-5769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Mr. Michael Ranatza, executive director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-8402, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Representative Riser in the chair

Ms. Elizabeth Kelly, Stine, LLC, 1509 South Huntington Street, Sulphur, LA 70661, (337) 527-0121, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Ms. Retha Wisthoff, Stine, LLC, 1509 South Huntington Street, Sulphur, LA 70661, (337) 527-0121, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Chairman Bishop in the chair

Mr. Matt Beeson, Swap Dragon, LLC, 3130 Balis Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (504) 400-5769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Mr. Stephen Waguespack, president and chief executive officer, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 615-0287, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Mr. Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-2835, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 199.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 199 favorably, to which Representative LaCombe objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 199 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, DeVillier, Farnum, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, Riser, White, and Wright voted yea. Representative LaCombe voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 22 in support, 1 in opposition, and 2 for information only. 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: 3 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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: Statements emailed to hwmc@legis.la.gov and received prior to noon on Monday, April 12, 2021, will be distributed to the committee members prior to the 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 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, DeVillier, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, Riser, White, and Wright voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Stuart J. Bishop
House Committee on Ways and Means