

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
April 15, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Stuart J. Bishop, chairman
Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
Representative Ryan Bourriaque
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Jason Hughes
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Matthew Willard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Mark Wright

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

House Bill No. 202 by Representative Bishop

Representative DeVillier in the chair

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 202, a constitutional amendment which provides for an increased vote requirement when enacting certain new tax incentives.

Representative Bishop offered technical amendments. 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, DeVillier, Farnum, Hughes, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, White, and Willard voted yea.

Mr. Robert Baumann, Hood, Baumann & Associates, 616 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 328-0330, spoke in support of House Bill No. 202.

Ms. Karen White, Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA), 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-5001, spoke in support of House Bill No. 202.

Representative White offered a motion to report House Bill No. 202 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 202 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, DeVillier, Farnum, Hughes, Ivey, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, White, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Chairman Bishop in the chair

House Bill No. 514 by Representative Magee

Representative Magee presented House Bill No. 514, which levies a state tax on raw or crude marijuana recommended for therapeutic use and provides for the disposition of the collections of the tax.

Representative Bishop offered amendments which: (1) specify that proposed law provides an exception to the current state sales and use tax exclusion for raw and crude marijuana recommended for therapeutic use; and (2) provide that proposed law will be effective if and when House Bill No. 391 of the 2021 Regular Session is enacted and becomes effective. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, DeVillier, Farnum, Hughes, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, White, and Willard voted yea.

Mr. David Brown, Cannabis Council of Louisiana, 301 North Main Street, Suite 2200, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 255-1030, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 514.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 514 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 514 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Bourriaque, Bryant, DeVillier, Farnum, Hughes, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, White, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 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: 2 in opposition. Copies of the statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 279 by Representative DeVillier

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 279, which phases-out the corporation franchise tax over a certain period of time.

Representative Bishop offered conceptual amendments which specify that House Bill No. 205 is the proposed constitutional amendment to which the effectiveness of House Bill No. 279 is tied. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, DeVillier, Farnum, Hughes, Ivey, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, White, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 279. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 279 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, DeVillier, Farnum, Hughes, Ivey, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, White, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 318 by Representative DeVillier

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 318, a constitutional amendment which provides for the ad valorem tax exemption for industrial manufacturers.

Representative Hughes offered conceptual amendments which include the approval of the parish governing authority school board, municipal council, and sheriff whose revenue would be affected. Representative Hughes offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative DeVillier objected. After further discussion, Representative Hughes withdrew the amendments.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 318. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 318 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, DeVillier, Farnum, Hughes, Ivey, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, White, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 10 in opposition. Witness cards 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 Wednesday, April 14, 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 Beaulieu offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Beaulieu, Bourriaque, Bryant, DeVillier, Farnum, Hughes, Ivey, LaCombe, McMahan, Mincey, Orgeron, Phelps, White, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Stuart J. Bishop
House Committee on Ways and Means