

House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 28, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter, chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Raymond J. Crews
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Lawrence "Larry" Frieman
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Neil Riser, vice chairman
Representative Laurie Schlegel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kenny R. Cox
Representative Valarie Hodges

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jurissa McGuire, attorney
Johnna Johnson, committee administrative assistant
Nevonda S. Reed, division director

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Sam Jenkins

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Victoria Grant, committee clerk
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 880 by Representative Carter**

Representative Carpenter announced that action on House Bill No. 880, which establishes a state minimum wage rate, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 241 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 241, which provides relative to the Fresh Start Proper Worker Classification Initiative.

Representative Carpenter offered amendments to House Bill No. 241 in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Carpenter offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Provide that applications for participation in the Fresh Start Proper Worker Classification Initiative shall be exempted under the public records law.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 241 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 241 was reported by substitute by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 472 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 472, which provides relative to wages for tipped employees.

Ericka Zucker, Workplace Justice Project, Loyola University College of Law Broadway Building, 540 Broadway Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 861-5746, spoke in support of House Bill No. 472.

Jackson Voss, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (985) 785-2574, spoke in support of House Bill No. 472.

Julie Shwarm Harris, Legislative Agenda for Women, 1208 Pine Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, no phone number provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 472.

Matt Wood, Communications Workers of America (CWA), 429 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (318) 465-2092, spoke in support of House Bill No. 472.

Megan Klock, Ruffino's Restaurant, 18811 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 753-3458, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 472.

Kevin Kimball, Stab's Restaurant, 7666 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 361-0797, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 472.

Representative Carpenter offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Robert Owen, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Cormier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 472 with amendments, to which Representative Riser objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas, 8 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Cormier, Larvadain, and Phelps voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Robert Owen, Riser, and Schlegel voted nay. Representative Carpenter abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 20 in support, 3 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1013 by Representative White

Representative White presented House Bill No. 1013, which provides relative to the minimum wage of state employees.

Chris Fiore, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (918) 231-9933, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1013.

Peter Robins Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 256-8196, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1013.

Representative Larvadain offered amendments to change the minimum wage rate from nine dollars to 10 dollars. Representative Larvadain offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1013 favorably with amendments, to which Representative Amedee objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Larvadain, and Phelps voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Riser, and Schlegel voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 311 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 311, which establishes a state minimum wage rate.

Dianna Payton, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Greater Baton Rouge, 10650 Hilltree Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 200-8881, spoke in support of House Bill No. 311.

Davante Lewis, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway Suite 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, no phone number was provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 311.

Julie Cherry, Louisiana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), 429 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 383-5741, spoke in support of House Bill No. 311.

Angelon Nelson, The H₂O Experience, 23870 Kirtley Drive, Plaquemine, LA 70764, (225) 385-1579, spoke in support of House Bill No. 311.

Katie Bernhardt, Louisiana Democratic Party, P.O. Box 4385, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (337) 278-8133, spoke in support of House Bill No. 311.

Homer N. Charles, The H₂O Experience, 3940 Prescott Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, (225) 312-3931, spoke in support of House Bill No. 311.

Edgar Cage, Together Louisiana, 2019 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 274-5808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 311.

Natalie Pruitt, United Way of Southeast Louisiana - Tulane University, 2412 State Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (973) 910-1413, spoke in support of House Bill No. 311.

Eugene Collins, YWCA Greater Baton Rouge, 11404 Lake Sherwood Avenue North, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 383-0681, spoke in support of House Bill No. 311.

Melissa Flournoy, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 936-7200, spoke in support of House Bill No. 311.

Erica Zucker, Workplace Justice Project, Loyola University College of Law Broadway Building, 540 Broadway Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 861-5746, spoke in support of House Bill No. 311.

Kaitlyn Joshua, 12296 Oak Colony Drive, Geismar, LA 70734, (225) 454-8321, spoke in support of House Bill No. 311.

Dawn McVea, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 218-6847, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 311.

Jim Patterson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 928-5388, spoke in opposition of House Bill No. 311.

Representative Cormier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 311 favorably, to which Representative Frieman objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Larvadain, and Phelps voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Riser, and Schlegel voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 21 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 229 by Representative Green

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 229, which establishes a state minimum wage.

Jackson Voss, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (985) 785-2574, spoke in support of House Bill No. 229.

Cate Brodowski, United Way Southeast Louisiana - Tulane University Student, 933 Pine Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (617) 797-2878, spoke in support of House Bill No. 229.

Julie Shwarm Harris, Legislative Agenda for Women, 1208 Pine Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, no phone number provided, julieschwarm@gmail.com, spoke in support of House Bill No. 229.

Frankie Roberston, New Orleans Louisiana Maternal and Child Health Coalition (NOLA MCH), P.O. Box 77084, Baton Rouge, LA 70879, (225) 247-7834, spoke in support of House Bill No. 229.

Dawn McVea, NFIB, 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 218-6847, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 229.

Jim Patterson, LABI, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 928-5388, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 229.

Tom Costanza, Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 871-7829, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 229.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 229 favorably, to which Representative Crews objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Larvadain, and Phelps voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Robert Owen, Riser, and Schlegel voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 21 in support, 2 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 219 by Representative Green

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 219, which provides relative to equal pay for women.

Janea Jamison, Power Coalition, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, (985) 513-1674, spoke in support of House Bill No. 219.

Julie Shwarm Harris, Legislative Agenda for Women, 1208 Pine Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, no phone number provided, julieschwarm@gmail.com, spoke in support of House Bill No. 219.

Dawn McVea, NFIB, 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 218-6847, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 219.

Jim Patterson, LABI, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 928-5388, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 219.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 219 favorably, to which Representative Horton objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Cormier, Larvadain, and Phelps voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Riser, and Schlegel voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 24 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 282 by Senator Jackson

On behalf of Senator Jackson, Representative Larvadain presented Senate Bill No. 282, which establishes a workforce training initiative to serve public assistance recipients.

Jim Patterson, LABI, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 928-5388, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 282.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 282 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 282 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 988 by Representative Landry

Representative Landry presented House Bill No. 988, which provides relative to employment discrimination against public employees being treated with medical marijuana.

Jacques Berry, Division of Administration, 1201 North 3rd Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7178, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 988.

Tony Landry, Louisiana Veterans for Medical Cannabis, 213 Case Lane, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 412-2836, spoke in support of House Bill No. 988.

Peter Robins Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 256-8196, spoke in support of House Bill No. 988.

Representative Carpenter offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes to the title.
2. Add an exception for law enforcement, public safety officials, and firefighter services.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Carpenter offered amendments to change the applicability from public employment to state employment. Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 988 with amendments. After further discussion, Representative Larvadain withdrew his motion.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 988. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 988 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support. 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 Larvadain offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Barbara W. Carpenter
House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Date adopted: