

House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 12, 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 9:39 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 Raymond J. Crews
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Lawrence "Larry" Frieman
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Neil Riser, vice chairman
Representative Laurie Schlegel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Kenny R. Cox
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Victoria Grant, committee clerk
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 1037 by Representative Landry

Representative Carpenter announced that action on House Bill No. 1037, which provides relative to noncompete contracts or agreements, was voluntarily deferred.

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.

Senate Bill No. 107 by Senator Luneau

Representative Riser in the chair.

On behalf of Senator Luneau, Representative Carpenter presented Senate Bill No. 107, which re-creates the Louisiana Workforce Commission and re-authorizes the Incumbent Worker Training Program.

Robert Wooley, Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 938-4240, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 107

Meredith Trahant, LWC, 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1599, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 107.

Tavares Walker, LWC, 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2679, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 107.

Representative Riser offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Riser, and Schlegel, voted yea.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 107 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 107 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel, voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 657 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 657, which provides relative to the unemployment compensation maximum weekly benefit amount and extended benefits.

Brian Sikma, Opportunity Solutions Project, 15275 Collier Boulevard, Naples, FL 34119, (219) 477-9009, spoke in support of House Bill No. 657.

Margaret Mabile, LWC, 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 513-2823, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 657.

Representative Echols offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Riser offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 657. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 657 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 7 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 439 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 439, which provides relative to employment discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Natalie Elethorp, Louisiana Trans Advocates - Monroe, 119 Sandy Ridge Road, Eros, LA 71238, (318) 450-9854, spoke in support of House Bill No. 439.

Peyton Rose Michelle, Louisiana Trans Advocates, 1099 Ruth Drive, Saint Martinville, LA 70582, (337) 356-9312, spoke in support of House Bill No. 439.

Melissa Flournoy, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 936-7200, spoke in support of House Bill No. 439.

Representative Horton offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 439, to which Representative Larvadain objected. Representative Larvadain offered a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 439 favorably, to which Representative Horton objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the substitute motion to report House Bill No. 439 favorably failed by a vote of 2 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Larvadain and Phelps voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Riser, and Schlegel voted nay.

The original motion to involuntarily defer House Bill No. 439 was considered, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 439 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 7 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea. Representatives Larvadain and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 by Representative Travis Johnson

Representative Travis Johnson presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 85, which requests the Louisiana Workforce Commission to study the feasibility of creating facilities that provide virtual workshops and training and remote work stations.

Representative Riser offered amendments to House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Change the request of the LWC from studying the feasibility of creating facilities that would stimulate workforce development to a request to research funding the feasibility of creating these facilities.
3. Delete the request for the LWC to examine the possibility of creating facilities that would provide virtual workshops and training.
4. Delete the list of subjects and issues that the LWC was required to study.

The committee stood at ease at 10:59 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:02 a.m.

Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, Riser, and Schlegel voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 988 by Representative Landry

Representative Carpenter in the chair.

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

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 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, Phelps, Riser, and Carpenter voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 56 by Representative Frieman

Representative Frieman presented House Bill No. 56, which repeals the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council.

Meredith Trahant, LWC, 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1599, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 56.

Jim Patterson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 928-5388, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Julie Cherry, Louisiana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, 429 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 383-5741, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 56.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 56 favorably, to which Representative Carpenter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 56 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, and Schlegel voted yea. Representatives Carpenter and Larvadain voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 6 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 Larvadain offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Horton, Larvadain, and Schlegel, voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: