

## **House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works**

Minutes of Meeting  
2022 Regular Session  
May 2, 2022

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Mark Wright, chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Mark Wright, chairman  
Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass, vice chairman  
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier  
Representative Kathy Edmonston  
Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment  
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg  
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry  
Representative Cedric B. Glover  
Representative Dodie Horton  
Representative Ed Larvadain, III  
Representative Charles Anthony Owen  
Representative Vincent J. Pierre  
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn  
Representative Larry Selders

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Joseph A. Marino, III  
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore  
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

LeeAnne Sharlow, attorney  
Carlesia Bibbins, attorney  
Brandy Phillips, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****Senate Bill No. 52 by Senator Abraham**

Senator Abraham presented Senate Bill No. 52, which designates the Black Bayou Bridge on Louisiana Highway 384 in Calcasieu Parish as the "Dorothy Carter Memorial Bridge".

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 52 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 52 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 61 by Senator McMath**

Senator McMath presented Senate Bill No. 61, which creates "Mental Health" special prestige license plate.

Representative Cormier offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 61 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 61 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Firment, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

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

The count of prepared statements received up until adjournment of the meeting are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 181 by Senator McMath**

Senator McMath presented Senate Bill No. 181, which provides for the definition of an airport sponsor and replaces "engineer" with "sponsor" for the approval, inspection, and certification of airport construction projects.

Mr. Bradley D. Brandt, DOTD, P.O. Box 94245, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 379-3040, spoke for information only.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 181 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 181 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

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

**Senate Bill No. 211 by Senator Stine**

Senator Stine presented Senate Bill No. 211, which provides for changes to the "Choose Life" special prestige license plate.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 211 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 211 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders 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.

**Senate Bill No. 79 by Senator White**

On behalf of Senator White, Senator Foil presented Senate Bill No. 79, which designates a portion of LA 16 in St. Helena Parish as the "Trooper George Baker Memorial Highway".

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 79 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 79 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

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

**Senate Bill No. 433 by Senator White**

On behalf of Senator White, Senator Foil presented Senate Bill No. 433, which provides relative to the membership of certain airport commissions.

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Modify a provision by specifying that the members appointed to the board will serve as ex officio members.

3. Add a provision that specifies that a majority of the membership of the board constitutes a quorum, excluding ex officio members.

Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 433 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 433 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

### **Senate Bill No. 39 by Senator Bernard**

On behalf of Senator Bernard, Representative Firment presented Senate Bill No. 39, which designates LA Hwy. 493 beginning at LA Hwy. 119 to LA Hwy. 1 in Natchitoches Parish as the "Augustin Metoyer Memorial Parkway".

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 39 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 39 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 1031 by Representative Freiberg**

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 1031, which imposes a road usage fee on certain electric and hybrid vehicles.

Representative Brass offered amendments to:

1. Make a technical change.
2. Change the road usage fee from \$400 to \$110 per year on each electric vehicle.
3. Change the road usage fee from \$275 to \$60 per year on each hybrid vehicle.
4. Remove a provision that required the commissioner of the office of motor vehicles to collect a tax every two years at the same time and in the same manner as the registration license tax.
5. Remove a provision that required the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) used 100% of the electric and hybrid vehicle road usage fee

on highway and bridge preservation projects included in the Highway Priority program.

6. Add a provision that requires the Dept. of Revenue to require each person filing an individual income tax return to report and certify on such return the number of electric vehicles and the number of hybrid vehicles registered in this state and owned by the filer. Further requires the collection of fees imposed at the same time and in the same manner as it collects taxes owed in connection with the individual income tax return filed by the owner of an electric or hybrid vehicle.
7. Modify a provision relative to the disposition and use fees. Further specifies fees are to be allocated as follows:
  - (a) Seventy percent of the proceeds be deposited into the Construction Subfund of the Transportation Trust Fund for use by the DOTD on road and bridge preservation projects included in the Highway Priority Program in accordance with the DOTD's definitions of such projects.
  - (b) Thirty percent of the proceeds be deposited into the Parish Transportation Fund and distributed to local governments in accordance with the formula. Further provides the amounts distributed may be used by local governments for any purpose that is a permitted use of funds received from the Parish Transportation Fund.

Representative Brass offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Secretary Shawn Wilson, DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 379-1200, spoke for information only.

Mr. Kevin Richard, secretary, Louisiana Department of Revenue, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-4059, spoke for information only.

*Representative Brass in the chair.*

Ms. Jill Jarreau, office of motor vehicles, 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-7917, spoke for information only.

Ms. Angelle Bradford, Sierra Club Delta Chapter, 2103 Selma Street, New Orleans, LA 70122, (225) 454-8319, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1031.

Representative Pierre offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1031 with amendments, to which Representative Firment objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 1031 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Larvadain, Pierre, and Selders voted yea. Representatives Firment, Charles Owen, and Schamerhorn voted nay.

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#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Glover, Larvadain, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Mark Wright  
House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Date adopted: