

House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 9, 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 10:07 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 Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Vincent J. Pierre
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Larry Selders

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Cedric B. Glover
Representative Dodie Horton
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. 453 by Senator McMath

Senator McMath presented Senate Bill No. 453, which provides relative to low speed autonomous motor vehicles.

Mr. Mike Blank, Nuro, 1300 Terra Bella Avenue, Suite 100, Mountain View, CA 94043, (314) 223-5268, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 453.

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

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 453 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 453 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 100 by Senator Cathey

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 100, which exempts certain visa holders from Louisiana driver education requirements.

Ms. Theresa Monroe, Louisiana Farm Bureau, 1826 Highland Road, Lake Providence, LA 71254, (318) 282-4778, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 100.

Ms. Katie Ramagos Sistrunk, Louisiana Farm Bureau, 36110 Richland Road, White Castle, LA 70788, (225) 937-5813, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 100.

Mr. Cary Koch, Driving School Association of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (251) 907-5780, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 100.

Ms. Staci Hoyt, office of motor vehicles, 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 270-1556, spoke for information only.

Ms. Kelly Sittig, office of motor vehicles, 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 279-0886, spoke for information only.

Representative Firment offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 100 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 100 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 389 by Senator Reese

Chairman Wright announced that action on Senate Bill No. 389, which provides relative to the suspension of driver's licenses for failure to pay taxes, was voluntarily deferred.

Representative Brass in the chair.

House Bill No. 871 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 871, which provides relative to reinstatement fees for an arrested person's failure to honor a written promise to appear.

Representative Brass offered a technical amendment. Representative Brass offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Charles Owen, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Ms. Sarah Whittington, Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana, 4035 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 322-4050, spoke in support of House Bill No. 871.

Dr. Ifeyinwa F. Davis, Louisiana Appleseed, 1615 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (301) 356-7103, spoke in support of House Bill No. 871 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Chairman Wright in the chair.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 871 with amendments, to which Representative Firment objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 871 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Charles Owen, and Selders voted yea. Representative Firment voted nay. Representative Wright abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 127 by Senator Carter

Senator Carter presented Senate Bill No. 127, which provides for certain advertising requirements for small purchase bids.

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

Representative Selders offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 127 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 127 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Charles Owen, and Selders voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 477 by Senator Smith

Senator Smith presented Senate Bill No. 477, which provides relative to issuance of a special permit for the operation of a combination of vehicles or tandem loads hauling containers to and from port facilities.

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

1. Change the permit type to a biannual permit.
2. Change the requirements for the gross weight from 35,000 lbs per gross weight to 40,000 lbs per gross weight.
3. Add 60,000 per tri axle spread to the required maximum pounds per tandem axle spread.
4. Change the requirements for the maximum feet in length from 75 ft to 83 ft.

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

Mr. Shawn Cotten, DOT Compliance Solutions, 10645 Jaybird Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 247-0167, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 477 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Ed Webb, World Trade Center, 1100 Poydras Street, Suite 3475, New Orleans, LA 70163, (504) 418-6961, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 477.

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

Mr. Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North Seventh Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-2835, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 477.

Mr. Michael Garriga, BNSF Railway, 5280 East Shelby Drive, Memphis, TN 38120, (901) 268-1846, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 477.

Mr. Drew Tessier, Union Pacific Railroad, 1181 Belvedere Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 266-5660, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 477.

Representative Brass in the chair.

Mr. Carmack M. Blackmon, Louisiana Railroads Association, P.O. Box 44035, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 388-9871, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 477.

Chairman Wright in the chair.

Representative Charles Owen offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 477 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 477 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea. Representatives Cormier, Gadberry, and Larvadain voted nay. Representative Wright abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 2 in opposition. 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 support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 78 by Senator Reese

On behalf of Senator Reese, Representative Charles Owen, presented Senate Bill No. 78, which increases threshold amount that requires a public bid for the procurement of certain law enforcement vehicles by a local government unit.

Representative Schamerhorn offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 78 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 78 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders 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.

Senate Bill No. 302 by Senator Barrow

On behalf of Senator Barrow, Representative Selders presented Senate Bill No. 302, which provides for changing the special prestige license plate for Girl Scouts.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 302 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 302 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Charles Owen, 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. 68 by Senator Fred Mills

On behalf of Senator Fred Mills, Representative Larvadain presented Senate Bill No. 68, which provides relative to the Port of Iberia.

Representative Larvadain offered technical amendments. Representative Larvadain offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Representative Firment offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 68 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 68 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders 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.

House Resolution No. 104 by Representative Duplessis

Chairman Wright announced that action on House Resolution No. 104, which creates a task force to study and make recommendations on protective measures for improving the safety of ridesharing services, was voluntarily deferred.

House Resolution No. 105 by Representative Duplessis

Chairman Wright announced that action on House Resolution No. 105, which creates a task force to study and make policy recommendations relative to ridesharing options for persons with disabilities, was voluntarily deferred.

Senate Bill No. 19 by Senator Morris

On behalf of Senator Morris, Chairman Wright presented Senate Bill No. 19, which provides for police officers to use electronic forms.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 19 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 19 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 1 for information only. 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 Gadberry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: