

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2022 Regular Session  
May 23, 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 9:59 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 Dodie Horton  
Representative Ed Larvadain, III  
Representative Charles Anthony Owen  
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen  
Representative Vincent J. Pierre  
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn  
Representative Larry Selders

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Cedric B. Glover  
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore

#### **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. 416 by Senator Abraham**

Senator Abraham presented Senate Bill No. 416, which terminates the Calcasieu-Cameron Navigation District.

Representative Pierre offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 416 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 416 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 445 by Senator Abraham**

Senator Abraham presented Senate Bill No. 445, which provides relative to approval of Department of Transportation and Development P3 projects.

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

Representative Wright offered amendments in concept to:

1. Remove the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget from the required department approval process prior to entering into contracts. Retain the requirement that the department obtain approval from the House and Senate transportation and highway committees.

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, Edmonston, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 445 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 445 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Edmonston, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, 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.

*Representative Wright in the chair.*

**Senate Bill No. 458 by Senator Harris**

Senator Harris presented Senate Bill No. 458, which provides relative to the board of commissioners and the nominating committee of certain flood protection authorities.

Mr. Clay Cosse, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70122, no phone number provided, spoke for information only.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 458 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 458 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, 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. 389 by Senator Reese**

Senator Reese presented Senate Bill No. 389, which provides relative to the suspension of driver's licenses for failure to pay taxes.

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Modify present law by requiring the suspension of driving privileges be imposed and renewal of a driver's license be denied if all of the enumerated conditions are met.
3. Require the Dept. of Revenue promptly notify the office of motor vehicles upon payment or arrangement to pay and requires the individual's driving privileges be reinstated without additional action required of the individual.
4. Authorize the secretary of the Dept. of Revenue to, by rule, provide for suspension of driver's license privileges at higher thresholds of individual income tax due based on an individual's historical compliance with La. tax laws and the facts and circumstances relating to the unpaid tax liability. Authorize the acceptance of surety or other collateral in lieu of suspension of a driver's license.

Mr. Luke Morris, LDR, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 662-8411, spoke for information only.

*Chairman Wright in the chair.*

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

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, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Selders voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 389 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 389 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 41 by Senator Connick**

*Representative Brass in the chair.*

Senator Connick presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 41, which requests the legislative auditor to review the Belle Chasse Bridge & Tunnel Replacement Public-Private Partnership Project.

Representative Cormier offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 41 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 41 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, and Schamerhorn 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.

*Chairman Wright in the chair.*

**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 45 by Senator McMath**

Senator McMath presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 45, which creates a task force to study national best practice models for the efficient and effective administration of state transportation departments.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 45 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 45 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 46 by Senator McMath**

Senator McMath presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 46, which creates a task force to study fees for electric vehicles.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 46 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 46 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, 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.

### **Senate Bill No. 467 by Senator Carter**

Senator Carter presented Senate Bill No. 467, which requires DOTD to initiate the necessary engineering, financial, and other studies to begin passenger rail service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans and along the Interstate 20 corridor.

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

Representative Larvadain offered amendments to:

1. Make a technical change.
2. Require the Dept. of Transportation and Development to provide the scope schedule and budget to the joint committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works prior to the start of the 2023 Regular Session.

Representative Larvadain 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, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 467 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 467 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 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 support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

#### **House Resolution No. 149 by Representative Mincey**

Representative Mincey presented House Resolution No. 149, which urge and requests the Amite River Basin Commission to study tidal surge flood protection and erosion on Lake Maurepas' Livingston Parish shoreline and the effects of dredging of the Amite River.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 149 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 149 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

#### **House Resolution No. 156 by Representative Mincey**

Representative Mincey presented House Resolution No. 156, which memorializes the United States Congress to invest in hurricane storm damage reduction, flood protection, and drainage infrastructure projects in the Amite River Basin.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 156 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 156 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

#### **House Resolution No. 127 by Representative Willard**

Representative Willard presented House Resolution No. 127, which creates the Louisiana Contraflow Task Force.

Representative Cormier offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 127 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 127 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays.

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

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 for information only. 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: 8 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 114 by Representative LaCombe**

Representative LaCombe presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 114, which urges and requests the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and make recommendations relative to the feasibility of codifying certain cases relative to R.S. 38:113.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 114 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 114 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Pierre, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 336 by Representative Goudeau**

Representative Goudeau presented House Bill No. 336, which creates the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge Commission and the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge Commission police.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 336 favorably, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 336 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Gadberry, Horton, Charles Owen, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representatives Brass, Freiberg, Larvadain, and Pierre voted nay.

### **Senate Bill No. 280 by Senator Bernard**

Senator Bernard presented Senate Bill No. 280, which provides relative to the Dam Safety Program.

Mr. Edward Knight, DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 379-3007, spoke for information only.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 280 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 280 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright,

Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

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

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 79 by Representative Adams**

Representative Adams presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 79, which provides for a study of adding a shoulder to Louisiana Highway 19 between north Zachary and the Mississippi state line.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 79 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 79 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, and Selders voted yea.

### **House Resolution No. 130 by Representative Hodges**

Representative Hodges presented House Resolution No. 130, which urges and requests the office of motor vehicles include information about organ, eye, and tissue donation in driver education training.

Ms. Leah B. Veck, LOPA, 12432 Stonewall Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, (225) 993-1504, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 130.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 130 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 130 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders 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 Resolution No. 157 by Representative Jordan**

Representative Jordan presented House Resolution No. 157, which urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to include the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport in the passenger rail system between Baton Rouge to New Orleans.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 157 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 157 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, 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. 497 by Senator Cloud**

Representative Wright offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 497, which restricts alteration of a vehicle's wheel well. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 497 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wright, Brass, Cormier, Edmonston, Firment, Freiberg, Gadberry, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Edmonston 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, Horton, Larvadain, Charles Owen, Schamerhorn, and Selders voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: