

**Subcommittee on the Study of the Louisiana Music Industry of the
House Committee on Commerce**

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
October 23, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Paula P. Davis, chairman of the Subcommittee on the Study of the Louisiana Music Industry of the House Committee on Commerce, called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Paula P. Davis, chairman
Representative Chad Brown
Representative Adrian Fisher
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Clay Schexnayder, speaker

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Victoria Kelley, attorney
Kathryn Vigrass, legislative analyst
Sharell Steven, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Kristy Neubrandner, commercial administrative assistant
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Danny Leming, assistant chief sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed, division director

III. BUSINESS

Discussion on the state's incentive laws for music and live performance industries and the make up of the state's current music industry and its impact on the state's economy by the following invited agencies and associations:

Office of Entertainment Industry Development, Department of Economic Development

Sherri McConnell, 1555 St. Rose Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only. Ms. McConnell provided information on her background with music industry development and the Department of Economic Development. She also provided information on the entertainment industry, the economic development in the state, and the creative goals for the future.

Chris Stelly, Louisiana Economic Development, 617 N. Third St., 11th floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only. He provided information about the department and described the different programs within the agency. He discussed the economic impact study, provided information on upcoming plans to improve the development of the entertainment economy and informed the committee of some of the challenges that the industry is facing.

Representative Davis asked if the department and the Lieutenant Governor's Office were working together on the music trail. Representative Davis asked Mr. Stelly to elaborate on the three jobs in relation to the economic impact study and how the economic impact study is going to be different in the film industry. Mr. Stelly explained the goal of the industry as a whole.

Representative Brown asked if other states provide an incentive to offset the cost of certain challenges within the music industry. Mr. Stelly provided information. Representative Brown and Mr. Stelly discussed music artists stopping in Louisiana during their tours.

Representative Newell asked Ms. McConnell if protection and education is provided for music artists in Louisiana relative to their creative work and the development of artificial intelligence (AI). Ms. McConnell provided information on what the agency is doing to protect music artists and provided information on the history of the film and music industry in Louisiana.

Representative Newell asked Mr. Stelly if the agency is looking into high school programs and inquired about charter schools and tax barriers. Mr. Stelly explained that they have spoken to a local school board about adopting a music technology and production program within the school system.

Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism

Lacy M. Chataignier, The Office of Cultural Development, 1051 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only. She provided information and details about the Office of Cultural and Development.

Representative Newell asked if there are grant resources available to assist in creating local businesses to keep music artists in the state. Ms. Chataignier provided information on the initiatives that are being created for musicians.

The Recording Academy

Reid Wick, Recording Academy, 2245 Audubon St., New Orleans, LA 70125, provided information only and presented a power point presentation, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Newell asked if giving tax breaks to more state-based businesses would attract more music artists to tour the state. Mr. Wick provided information on the process involved in preparing a live event. Representative Newell and Mr. Wick continued to discuss incentives and supporting local music artists.

Representative Davis stated to the committee that the discussion is to inform and educate on what the music industry has to offer and what needs to be done for the industry to grow.

Representative St. Blanc provided information on the history of the growth of the film and music industry through his years of experience. He explained the support of the committee and the legislature for the film and music industry.

Mayor's Office of Nighttime Economy, City of New Orleans

Howie Kaplan, City of New Orleans, 907 S. Peters St., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only. He provided information about his background, upcoming tours coming to Louisiana, and how funds are generated for the entertainment and music industry.

Greater New Orleans, Inc.

Josh Fleig, Greater New Orleans, Incorporation, 1100 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70163, spoke for information only and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Newell asked Mr. Fleig about protecting creators lyrics and music from AI. Mr. Fleig provided information. Representative Newell expressed her concerns about the future of AI and how AI will affect music artists. Mr. Wick provided further information on the steps being taken to protect the music industry from AI.

Winter Circle Productions

Howie Kaplan, City of New Orleans, 907 S. Peters St., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only. He addressed why tours are skipping Louisiana and provided explained the issues with the state tax structure and legislative issues. Representative Brown and Mr. Kaplan discussed plans for future conversations on working to resolve these issues.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Newell offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Davis, Brown, Fisher, Newell, and St. Blanc voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Paula P. Davis

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Date adopted: