

## House Committee on Commerce

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
March 13, 2024

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel, chair of the House Committee on Commerce, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### II. ROLL CALL

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel, chair  
Representative Delisha Boyd  
Representative Kim Carver  
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III  
Representative Jessica Domangue  
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.  
Representative Troy Jude Hebert  
Representative Stephanie Hilferty  
Representative Jacob Jules Gabriel Landry  
Representative Edmond Jordan  
Representative Alonzo L. Knox  
Representative Danny McCormick  
Representative Dixon Wallace McMakin  
Representative Shaun Raphael Mena  
Representative Candace N. Newell  
Representative Neil Riser  
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III  
Representative Polly Thomas, vice chair

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Paula P. Davis

#### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Nevonda Reed, divisions director  
Angela Mamou, sergeant at arms  
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms  
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

**III. INTRODUCTIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

Representative Deshotel announced the discussion would be limited to 10 minutes per topic.

**Louisiana Cemetery Board**

Jerry W. Sullivan, Louisiana Cemetery Board, 3445 N. Causeway Blvd., Ste. 509., Metairie, LA 70002, spoke for information only. He explained the background and the purpose of the Louisiana Cemetery Board.

Representative Deshotel asked for further explanation of the 4% capped rate of a trust. Mr. Sullivan provided information.

Representative Knox asked how the trust and the 4% cap relate to the cemeteries that are designated for veterans. Mr. Sullivan explained that the Louisiana Cemetery Board does not have any authority of any federal cemeteries.

**Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Interior Designers**

T.L. Ritchie, State Board of Examiners of Interior Designers, 11736 Newcastle Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke for information only and provided two handouts, Exhibit A and Exhibit B, which are included in the committee records.

Representative Jordan asked what was the difference between an interior designer and an interior decorator and if there was an overlap. Ms. Ritchie provided information.

Representative Thomas asked how many states require licensing for interior designers, why other states are not requiring licensing, and if there was a fee or cost for continuing education. Ms. Ritchie provided information.

Representative Knox asked about the anticipated marketing growth of the profession and the four-year curricula in the state of Louisiana and how they were created. Ms. Ritchie provided information.

Representative Landry asked if interior designers are the only persons who can enforce building codes. Ms. Ritchie provided information. The discussion on building codes with examples continued.

Representative McMakin inquired about the average number of complaints the board receives per year. Anna Dow answered Representative McMakin's question.

Anna Dow, State Board of Examiners of Interior Designers, 11736 Newcastle Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke for information only and provided information on the types of complaints the State Board of Examiners of Interior Designers receive and how they are handled.

Representative Deshotel inquired if an interior designer is needed when designing a commercial property. Ms. Ritchie explained that an interior designer is not required and explained alternatives.

Representative Newell asked if the continuing education of an architect is the same as the continuing education of an interior designer. Ms. Ritchie explained the process of continuing education. Representative Newell asked if interior designers only look at the internal portion of a structure. Ms. Ritchie provided information.

### **State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana**

Lisa Benefield, State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana, 601 Poydras St., Ste. 1770, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records. She provided background information on the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana.

Representative Thomas asked if the requirements were the same in all 50 states to obtain a license. Ms. Benefield provided information and explained the requirements. Representative Thomas inquired about the evaluation for each state and the licensing fee. Ms. Benefield provided information.

Representative Knox asked about the functions of the three law firms utilized by the board and the scope of power and authority of a certified public accountant (CPA) in the industry. Ms. Benefield provided information.

Representative Landry inquired if the board has the authority to remove the license of a CPA due to fault or negligence after an investigation of a complaint. Ms. Benefield provided information on the procedure of the investigation process.

**Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology**

Steven Young, Board of Cosmetology, 11622 Sunbelt Ct., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke for information only and provided a handout, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records. Representative Thomas inquired about student fees and qualifications of a student. Mr. Young provided information. Representative Thomas asked if a student has mandatory continuing education. Mr. Young provided information on the process. Representative Thomas and Mr. Young discussed the continuing education of cosmetology instructors.

Representative Deshotel asked what the annual fee covers. Mr. Young provided information. Representative Deshotel asked what was the role of the civil service employees. Mr. Young explained the roles of the employees and the requirements.

Representative Newell asked about penalties for a cosmetologist or a salon found to be working without a license. Mr. Young provided information about the procedure and penalties. Representative Newell asked if the Board of Cosmetology oversees barber stylists. Mr. Young explained that the board does not cover barber stylists. Representative Newell asked if a manicurist is still allowed to have an apprentice. Mr. Young provided information.

Representative Landry inquired about the number of active licensed cosmetologists in the state of Louisiana. Mr. Young provided information. Representative Landry inquired about how the inspections are done. Mr. Young explained the process.

Representative Deshotel asked if salons are aware when an inspection is scheduled. Mr. Young explained that they are not notified.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to limit the discussions to 10 minutes.

**Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board**

Donna Sentell Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board (LAPELS), 9643 Brookline Ave., Ste. 121, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only and provided a handout, Exhibit E, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Thomas inquired about the source of income and the licensing fee of the board. Ms. Sentell provided information about the application fee and the renewal fee. Representative Thomas asked if there was a continuing education requirement. Ms. Sentell provided information.

Representative Landry asked if there is high school curriculum for students that are interested in a career in architecture or land surveying. Ms. Sentell provided information.

Representative Roy Gadberry, LAPELS, 1137 Ole Hwy 15, West Monroe, LA 71291, spoke for information only and explained his experience with hiring student surveyors during the summer.

Representative Domangue asked if the engineers that come into the state after a natural disaster have to be licensed in the state of Louisiana. Ms. Sentell explained the process and requirements for out-of-state engineers to work in Louisiana.

Representative Knox asked if there was a process for reciprocity or a process for an out-of-state worker. Ms. Sentell provided information. Representative Knox asked how the board regulates outside surveyors if there is a complaint. Ms. Sentell provided information. Representative Gadberry provided further explanation on how the state regulates out-of-state workers.

Representative Carver provided his educational background about his Bachelor of Science degree in engineering and suggested the board allow changes in terminology when referring to expired licenses. Ms. Sentell expressed her agreement with the suggestion made by Representative Carver.

Representative Deshotel asked if the board employees are civil service employees. Ms. Sentell confirmed that the employees are civil service employees and further explained that there are some employees who are not civil service employees.

### **Louisiana State Plumbing Board**

Ashley Tullier, State Plumbing Board of Louisiana, 11304 Cloverland Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only and provided two handouts, Exhibit F and Exhibit G, which are included in the committee records.

Representative Jordan commended Ms. Tullier on the good job she and the board are doing.

Representative Thomas asked about the licensing fees. Ms. Tullier explained the types of licenses and their fees. Representative Thomas asked if continuing education courses are required. Ms. Tullier provided information for each type of license.

Representative Deshotel asked for an elaboration of the board and how it is comprised. Ms. Tullier gave an explanation of the board. Representative Deshotel asked about the process of becoming a board member. Ms. Tullier explained the process. Representative Deshotel asked about the difference between a union and a non-union plumber. Ms. Tullier provided information.

*Representative Thomas in the chair.*

### **Louisiana Auctioneers Licensing Board**

Anna E. Dow, Auctioneers Licensing Board, 11736 Newcastle Ave., Bldg. G, Ste. C, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke for information only and provided a handout, Exhibit H, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Thomas asked if all states require an auctioneer license. Ms. Dow provided information.

Representative Knox asked for the types of harm an auctioneer can cause if there is not a state board. Ms. Dow provided information. Representative Knox asked if the state is seeing a lot of scams. Ms. Dow confirmed that there have been a lot of scams.

*Representative Deshotel is in the chair.*

### **Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors**

Brad Hassert, Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors, 600 North St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only.

Representative Deshotel asked about the current numbers of licenses. Mr. Hassert provided information. Representative Deshotel asked if an individual could obtain multiple licenses. Mr. Hassert provided clarification explained how a license is issued.

Representative Domangue spoke about issues in her district and asked Mr. Hassert for his input. Mr. Hassert expressed his opinion on the matter. Representative Domangue and Mr. Hassert discussed ways to help prepare and improve contractors license verification before storm season.

Representative Knox and Mr. Hassert discussed the permit process and challenges regarding contractors in Louisiana.

### **Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners**

Tyson Ducote, Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners, 9625 Fenway Ave., Ste. B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only.

Representative Thomas asked if all 50 states required an architect to have a license. Mr. Ducote confirmed. Representative Thomas asked Mr. Ducote to explain the reciprocity between other states in regards to licensing. Mr. Ducote provided information. Representative Thomas inquired about the percentage of out-of-state licensed architects, and Mr. Ducote provided information.

Representative Deshotel asked Mr. Ducote to explain the difference between an architect and an interior designer. Mr Ducote provided information.

### **Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board/Louisiana Real Estate Commission**

Summer Mire, Louisiana Real Estate Commission/Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board, 9071 Interline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only. Ms. Mire provided information on both the Louisiana Real Estate Commission and the Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board.

Representative Hebert asked Ms. Mire to explain the recent changes in regards to the new process of real estate license renewal. Ms. Mire provided information. Representative Hebert and Ms. Mire discussed the time frame of renewing a license.

Thomas Devillier, Louisiana Real Estate Commission/Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board, 9071 Interline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only. Mr. Deviller provided further information on the license renewal process.

Representative Thomas inquired about state reciprocity, licensing fees, and the annual renewal fee. Ms. Mire provided information.

Representative Boyd asked Ms. Mire to explain the reasoning behind the changes to delinquent fees. Ms. Mire provided information. Representative Boyd asked if the amount of renewals had anything to do with the change. Mr. Deviller explained when the statute took effect.

### **Louisiana State Board of Private Security Examiners**

Stephanie Richardson, Louisiana State Board of Private Security Examiners, 15703 Old Hammond Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke for information only and provided a handout, Exhibit I, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Thomas inquired about the reciprocity states, license fee, and the annual renewal fee. Ms. Richardson provided information.

### **Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council**

Mark Joiner, Louisiana State Uniform and Construction Code Council (LSUCCC), 8181 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only. He provided information on the LSUCCC.

Representative Thomas asked if the LSUCCC sets the standard for codes. Mr. Joiner confirmed that the LSUCCC sets the code standard and provided further information.

Representative Deshotel asked Mr. Joiner if the LSUCCC sets the codes for the fire marshal and if the codes in Louisiana are similar to the codes in other states. Mr. Joiner provided information. Representative Deshotel asked for clarification on the process for plan reviews and an explanation of the ranking system and how it is determined. Mr. Joiner provided information.

### **Louisiana Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters**

Joshua S. Force, Louisiana Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters, 909 Poydras St., 28<sup>th</sup> floor, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke for information only. He provided information on Louisiana Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters.

Representative Deshotel inquired about the number of employees on staff. Mr. Force provided information. Representative Deshotel asked if the board members received compensation.

Mr. Force explained the compensation of board members and gave a description of responsibilities of the board and staff.

Representative Thomas asked if other states license court reporters. Mr. Force provided information. Representative Thomas and Mr. Force further discussed ways to increase licenses in the state. Representative Thomas inquired about the license fee and the annual renewal fee.

### **Louisiana State Board of Private Investigator Examiners**

Pat Englade, Louisiana State Board of Private Investigator Examiners, 7414 Perkins Rd. Ste. 120, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only. He also provided information on the board and the challenges they have been facing.

Representative Deshotel inquired about the budget, employees, and the fee for licenses. Mr. Englade provided information.

Representative Thomas asked about the contributing factors to the agency losing a high number of private investigators. Mr. Glade explained the various reasons. Representative Thomas asked about requirements to be a private investigator and the annual salary for a private investigator. Mr. Glade provided information.

### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Knox, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Daryl Andrew Deshotel  
House Committee on Commerce

Date adopted: