

House Committee on Commerce

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
March 19, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel, chair of the House Committee on Commerce, called the meeting to order at 9:31 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 Paula P. Davis
Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Troy Jude Hebert
Representative Edmond Jordan
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Jacob Jules Gabriel Landry
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 Stephanie Hilferty

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Nevonda Reed, division director
Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms
Angela Mamou, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 491 by Representative Edmonston**

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 491, which provides relative to the Life Safety and Property Protection Licensing Act. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 491 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Knox, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

House Bill No. 468 by Representative Crews

Representative Crews presented House Bill No. 468, which requires utility companies to provide aggregate energy meter totals to certain property owners upon request.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Knox, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative McMakin offered amendments to:

- (1) Relative to the required submission of energy totals, change the amount of units that need to be occupied by tenants from eight to four units whether or not occupied.
- (2) Amend language from "a multifamily building or buildings" to "a multifamily building".

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Jordan, Knox, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Jody Montelaro, Entergy, 446 N. Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 468.

Brandon Frey, Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC), P.O. Box 91154, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 468.

Trey Hill, Atmos Energy, 450 Laurel St., Ste. 2000, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 468.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 468 with amendments. After discussion, Representative Knox withdrew his motion. No vote was taken.

Representative Riser offered amendments to require a borrower to pay a reasonable fee for costs incurred for the provision of whole-building data and make technical changes. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Jordan, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments that originated in committee to add a reporting requirement for fees. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Jordan, Knox, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Jordan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 468 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 468 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Jordan, Knox, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas 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.

House Bill No. 484 by Representative LaFleur

Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 484, which provides relative to surcharges for credit card use.

Representative Newell offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Newell offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Jordan, Knox, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Newell offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add a 2% surcharge cap to the total retail transaction if it is less than the actual amount charged to the business.
- (3) Add a notice requirement.

Representative Newell offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Jordan, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 484 with amendments, to which Representative Riser objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 12 nays. Representatives Boyd, Green, Jordan, Mena, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Hebert, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted nay.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 484. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 484 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 8 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 487 by Representative Newell

Representative Newell offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 487, which provides relative to surcharges for credit and debit card use. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 487 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Jordan, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

House Bill No. 397 by Representative St. Blanc

Representative St. Blanc presented House Bill No. 397, which provides relative to the Louisiana Underground Utilities and Facilities Damage Prevention Law.

Representative St. Blanc offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Green, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Jordan, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Thomas in the chair.

Emory Belton, Louisiana One Call, 10602 Hillbrook Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 397.

Representative Deshotel in the chair.

Trey Hill, Atmos Energy and Cleco, 450 Laurel St., Ste. 2000, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 397.

Representative Davis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 397 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 397 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Jordan, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 448 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 448, which requires a cash option for certain retail transactions.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Jordan, Knox, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Riser offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add that proposed law applies to consumers whose preferred method of payment is cash.
- (3) Add that for the purpose of proposed law, a retail business does not include the lease of goods or services for which posting collateral of security is typically required.
- (4) Add that proposed law does not apply for a contract of any type of insurance.
- (5) Remove the Department of Justice and add that the appropriate regulatory authority shall adopt the necessary policies and procedures to provide notice.
- (6) Remove all civil penalties from the bill.

Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Jordan, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative McCormick offered a motion to report House Bill No. 448 with amendments, to which Representative Davis objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Boyd, Cox, Green, Jordan, McCormick, and Mena voted yea. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Davis, Domangue, Hebert, Jacob Landry, McMakin, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted nay.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 448. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 448 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Jordan, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in opposition. 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 Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jacob Landry, Jordan, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Daryl Andrew Deshotel
House Committee on Commerce

Date adopted: