

House Committee on Commerce

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 20, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel, chair of the House Committee on Commerce, called the meeting to order at 10:04 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 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 Paula P. Davis
Representative Stephanie Hilferty

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Randall Ike, student clerk
Nevonda Reed, division director

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 494 by Senator Mizell**

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 494, which provides for the Department of Economic Development.

Susan Bourgeois, Louisiana Economic Development (LED), 617 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 494.

Mike Waguespack, Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA), P.O. Box 94397, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 494 and presented a PowerPoint presentation, Exhibit A, and two handouts, Exhibits B and C, which are included in the committee records.

Edward Seyler, LLA, P.O. Box 94397, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 494, and continued to present the PowerPoint presentation identified as Exhibit A.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Remove proposed law regarding leasing of an industrial megasite.
- (3) Add that the secretary has the authority to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement providing for the lease of property under the control and supervision of LED for establishment and operation of a facility for the purpose of creating economic benefits to the state, including new jobs, payroll, or other benefits.
- (4) Provide that the purchase, lease, and rental of all information technology equipment, related services, and software by LED shall be exempt from present law and the oversight and procurement authority of the chief information officer and office of technology services provided for in present law.
- (5) Require LED to continue as a LaGov agency for use of the enterprise resource planning.

- (6) Provide that LED shall develop rules and regulations for the purposes adopted in proposed law in accordance with present law. LED and the office of technology services shall establish a transition plan that shall be completed by June 30, 2025. The actions taken pursuant to proposed law are subject to the approval of the commissioner of administration before they are sent to committees required for review of agency rules.
- (7) Provide that present law shall not apply to LED. However, LED shall be required to continue as a LaGov agency and shall adopt procurement provisions pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with present law. The rules created by LED pursuant to proposed law shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner of administration before they are sent to committees required for review of agency rules. In addition, the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance shall also have authority for review of agency rules as provided for in present law.

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, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Jennifer Vernon, Committee of 100, 1748 Shades View Ln., Vestavia Hills, AL 35216, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 494.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 494 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 494 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 22 in support and 1 designee of elected official.

Senate Bill No. 332 by Senator Seabaugh

On behalf of Senator Seabaugh, Emily Andrews, Office of the Governor, 900 N. 3rd St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, presented Senate Bill No. 332, which repeals the Occupational Licensing Review Commission.

On behalf of Attorney General Liz Murrill, Nicol Hebert, 1885 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 332.

On behalf of Attorney General Liz Murril, Mike Dupree, 1855 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 332.

Sarah Whittington, Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana (JAC), 4035 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 332.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 332 favorably, to which Representative Boyd objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 332 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Jacob Landry, McMakin, and St. Blanc voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Knox, Mena, Newell, and Thomas voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support.

Senate Bill No. 490 by Senator Cathey

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 490, which provides relative to underground utilities and facilities.

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 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Cox, Hebert, Knox, Jacob Landry, McMakin, Mena, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Clarify that proposed law applies to those receiving any state or federal funding.
- (3) Provide that each municipality or parish that owns or operates certain utilities shall notify any excavator or demolisher that is utilizing the funds outlined in proposed law of its inability to locate, mark, or provide information as to the location of any of its underground utilities or facilities within 48 hours of a notice of excavation or demolition.
- (4) Provide that if an excavator or demolisher is timely notified, the excavator or demolisher shall be responsible and liable for any and all damage to the municipality of parish government's underground

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, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Knox, Jacob Landry, McMakin, Mena, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Trey Hill, Atmos Energy, 450 Laurel St., Ste. 2000, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 490.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 490 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 490 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Knox, Jacob Landry, McMakin, Mena, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only.

Senate Bill No. 489 by Senator Cathey

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 489, which provides for duties of the State Fire Marshal.

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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Knox, Mena, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana, 801 I Merle Gustafson Drive Baton Rouge LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 489.

Danny Brown, Louisiana Automatic Fire Alarm Association, 7515 Jefferson Hwy. #16, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 489.

Jimmy Hall, Fire Tech Systems, 721 N. Ashley Ridge Lp., Shreveport, LA 71106, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 489.

Rick Foster, Building Officials Association of Louisiana, 6767 Perkins Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 489.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 489 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 489 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Mena, Newell, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, 3 in opposition, and 2 for information only.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 134 by Representative Crews

Representative Crews presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 134, which directs utility companies to help facilitate the reporting requirements of the HUD Green mortgage insurance premiums program.

Representative McCormick offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 134 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 134 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Mena, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Mena offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Mena, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Daryl Andrew Deshotel
House Committee on Commerce

Date adopted: