

House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 25, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Raymond J. Crews, chair of the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Raymond J. Crews, chair
Representative Dennis Bamburg, Jr.
Representative Tehmi Jahi Chassion
Representative Jason Brian Dewitt
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Brian Leonard Glorioso
Representative Dodie Horton, vice chair
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Dixon Wallace McMakin
Representative Michael Melerine
Representative Shaun Raphael Mena
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Joy Walters
Representative Roger William Wilder, III

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jurissa McGuire, attorney
Felicie Jackson, executive assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Jaubert Ambeau, III, chief, sergeant at arms
Stephen Louis, assistant sergeant at arms
Angela Mamou, assistant sergeant at arms
Burnell Thomas, III, assistant sergeant at arms
Martin Mapp, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Elizabeth Douglas, sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed-Dobard, division director
Terry Alario, Jr., capitol security director
Danny Leming, assistant chief sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 360 by Representative Melerine**

Representative Tarver offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 360, which repeals the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 360 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Tarver, and Wilder voted yea.

House Bill No. 764 by Representative Taylor

Representative Tarver offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 764, which provides relative to defenses in workers' compensation claims. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 764 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Tarver, and Wilder voted yea.

House Bill No. 765 by Representative Taylor

Representative Tarver offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 765, which provides relative to a presumption of compensability under workers' compensation. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 765 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Tarver, and Wilder voted yea.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to invoke the three-minute rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Tarver, and Wilder voted yea.

Representative Horton in the chair.

House Bill No. 956 by Representative Crews

Representative Crews presented House Bill No. 956, which creates the Employee Secret Ballot Protection Act.

Tia Mills, Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 956.

Lady Carlson, Together Louisiana, 1520 Thomas H. Delpit Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 956.

Matt Wood, Louisiana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), 429 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 956.

Julie Spencer, AFL-CIO, 2540 Severn Ave., Ste. 400, Metairie, LA 70001, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 956.

Phillip Beard, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 487, 10342 Ridgely Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 956.

Peter Robins-Brown, AFL-CIO, 429 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 956.

Representative Horton offered amendments originating in committee to make a technical change. Representative Horton offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Mena, Phelps, Tarver, Walters, and Wilder voted yea.

Sarah Harbison, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras St., Ste. 900, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 956.

Steve Delie, Workers for Opportunity, 140 W. Main St., Midland, MI 48642, spoke in support of House Bill No. 956.

Chad Major, Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana (PFFALA), 8011 Merle Gustafson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70807, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 956.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 956 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The executive assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 956 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, McMakin, Melerine, Tarver, and Wilder voted yea. Representatives Chassion, Larvadain, Mena, Phelps, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 88 in opposition.

House Bill No. 571 by Representative Crews

Representative Crews presented House Bill No. 571, which provides relative to certain designated labor organization activities in employment contracts.

Representative Echols offered amendments to add charter schools to the definition of public employer and allow, instead of require, the attorney general or district attorney to enforce the provisions of proposed law. Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Tarver, Walters, and Wilder voted yea.

Sarah Harbison, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras St., Ste. 900, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 571.

Steve Delie, Workers for Opportunity, 140 W. Main St., Midland, MI 48642, spoke in support of House Bill No. 571.

Representative Echols in the chair.

John Kalb, National Right to Work Committee, 8002 Braddock Rd., #500, Springfield, VA 22151, spoke in support of House Bill No. 571.

Matt Wood, AFL-CIO, 429 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 571.

Julie Spencer, AFL-CIO, 2540 Severn Ave., Ste. 400, Metairie, LA 70001, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 571.

Peter Robins-Brown, AFL-CIO, 429 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 571.

Stephanie Underwood, St. Tammany Federation of Teachers and School Employees (STFTSE), 101 Mulberry Cir., Ponchatoula, LA 70454, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 571.

Lady Carlson, Together Louisiana, 1520 Thomas H. Delpit Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 571.

Chad Major, PFFALA, 8011 Merle Gustafson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70807, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 571.

Kerry Williams, 7852 Jefferson Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 571.

Quintle Slaughter, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), 3888 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., J2, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 571.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 571 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The executive assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 571 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, McMakin, Melerine, Tarver, and Wilder voted yea. Representatives Chassion, Larvadain, Mena, Phelps, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 100 in opposition.

Representative Crews in the chair.

House Bill No. 703 by Representative Melerine

Representative Melerine presented House Bill No. 703, which provides relative to controversion of benefits, preliminary determination hearings, disputed claims, and penalties and attorney fees.

Representative Melerine offered amendments to:

- (1) Define "reasonably controverted";
- (5) Provide a burden of proof for the party seeking attorney fees; and
- (6) Make technical changes.

Representative Melerine offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg,

Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Tarver, Walters, and Wilder voted yea.

Patrick Robinson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), 500 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 703.

Wayne Fontana, Louisiana Association of Self Insured Employers and LABI, 1555 Poydras St., Ste. 1700, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 703.

Caroline Minor, Injured Workers, 1945 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace, LA 70068, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 703

Jason Harbison, Louisiana Orthopaedic Association, 427 N. Theard St., Covington, LA 70433, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 703.

Joseph Jolissaint, Injured Workers, 9191 Seigen Ln., #4B, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 703.

Cindy Bishop, Louisiana Ambulatory Surgery Center Association and Louisiana Physician Patient Alliance, P.O. Box 80053, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 703.

Tim Benedetto, Workers, 3045 Ridgelake Dr., Metairie, LA 70002, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 703.

Robin Krumholt, Injured Workers, 6513 Perkins Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 703.

Daren Sarprie, Injured Workers, 3500 N. Hullen St., Ste. 18-225, Metairie, LA 70002, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 703.

Shannon Dartez, Injured Workers, 206 Traditions Dr., Lafayette, LA 70508, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 703.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 703 with amendments, to which Representative McMakin objected. The executive assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Dewitt, Echols, Horton, Melerine, and Wilder voted yea. Representatives Chassion, Glorioso, Larvadain, McMakin, Mena, Phelps, Tarver, and Walters voted nay.

Representative Melerine offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 703. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 703 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0

nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Tarver, Walters, and Wilder voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support and 15 in opposition.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 703 on May 1, 2024. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 703.

House Bill No. 919 by Representative Chenevert

Representative Crews offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 919, which provides with respect to payroll deductions. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 919 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Tarver, Walters, and Wilder voted yea.

Representative Echols in the chair.

House Bill No. 712 by Representative Crews

Representative Crews presented House Bill No. 712, which provides relative to the resignation from labor organizations for teachers and other school employees and the collection of membership dues for political activities.

Representative Echols offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, Melerine, Tarver, Walters, and Wilder voted yea.

Representative Echols offered amendments:

- (1) To delete provisions of law related to the membership dues for political activities;
- (2) To remove the collective bargaining provision;
- (3) To add R.S. 42457 to include notification requirements from when an employee ceases to withhold union dues; and
- (4) To make technical changes.

Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Melerine, Tarver, Walters, and Wilder voted yea.

Sarah Harbison, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras St., Ste. 900, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 712.

Representative Crews offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 712. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 712 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Phelps, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 101 in opposition.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 712 on May 1, 2024. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 712.

House Bill No. 572 by Representative Crews

Representative Crews presented House Bill No. 572, which prohibits collective bargaining for public officers and employees.

Representative Echols offered amendments to make a technical change. Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Phelps, and Tarver voted yea.

Sarah Harbison, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras St., Ste. 900, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

John Kalb, National Right to Work Committee, 8002 Braddock Rd., #500, Springfield VA, 22151, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Brigitte Herbst, Americans for Fair Treatment, 225 State St., Harrisburg, PA 17101, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Matt Wood, AFL-CIO, 429 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Julie Spencer, AFL-CIO, 2540 Severn Ave., Ste. 400, Metairie, LA 70001, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Peter Robins-Brown, AFL-CIO, 429 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Stephanie Underwood, STFTSE, 101 Mulberry Cir., Ponchatoula, LA 70454, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Larry Carter, Jr., Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 S. Acadian Thwy., Ste. 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Britain Forsyth, Step Up for Action, 2819 Pine St., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Quintle Slaughter, AFSCME, 3888 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., J2, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 572 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The executive assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 572 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, McMakin, Melerine, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Chassion, Larvadain, Mena, Phelps, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 99 in opposition.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Phelps offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Crews, Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Tarver, and Walters voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Raymond J. Crews
House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Date adopted: