

House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 9, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Dodie Horton, vice chair of the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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:

Representative Raymond J. Crews, chair

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jurissa McGuire, attorney
Felicie Jackson, executive assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Elizabeth Douglas, sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed Dobard, division director

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Glorioso offered a motion to invoke the three-minute rule. Without objection the motion was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Melerine, Tarver, and Wilder voted yea.

House Bill No. 523 by Representative Wilder

Representative Wilder presented House Bill No. 523, which provides relative to the election of a collective bargaining representative.

Representative Horton offered amendments 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 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Melerine, Tarver, and Wilder voted yea.

Vincent Vernuccio, Workers for Opportunity, 140 W. Main St., Midland, MI 48640, spoke in support of House Bill No. 523.

Keith Courville, P.O. Box 33, Livonia, LA 70755, spoke in support of House Bill No. 523.

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. 523.

Julie R. Spencer, American Federation of State, Country and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and AFL-CIO, 2540 Severn Ave., Ste. 400, Metairie, LA 70002, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 523.

Brant Osborn, St. Tammany Federation of Teachers and School Employees, 1842 8th St., Slidell, LA 70458, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 523.

Larry J. Carter, Jr., Louisiana Federation of Teachers (LFT), 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 523.

Quintle Slaughter, AFSCME, 3888 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., J2, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 523.

Marcus Thomas, Louisiana Association of Educators (LAE), 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 523.

Peter Robins-Brown, AFL-CIO, 429 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 523.

Representative Melerine offered a motion to report House Bill No. 523 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The executive assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 523 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Bamburg, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, McMakin, Melerine, Tarver, and Wilder voted yea. Representatives Chassion, Larvadain, Mena, and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 19 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 764 by Representative Taylor

Representative Taylor presented House Bill No. 764, which provides relative to defenses in workers' compensation claims.

Representative Horton offered amendments that prohibit a defense asserting lack of compensability or causation for an appeal or answer to a disputed claim for compensation regarding a medical treatment, if such defense wasn't asserted upon a request for a medical treatment and if it isn't used for purposes of denying treatment. Representative Horton offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bamburg, Dewitt, Echols, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Tarver, and Wilder voted yea.

Shannon Lindsey, Injured Workers, 1680 Old Spanish Trl., Slidell, LA 70458, spoke in support of House Bill No. 764 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Jenni Whitfield, Injured Workers, 3001 Division St., Metairie, LA 70002, spoke in support of House Bill No. 764.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 764 with amendments. Representative Melerine asked that the committee defer action on House Bill No. 764. The committee discussed the matter further and allowed other witnesses to testify.

Robin Krumholt, Injured Workers, 6153 Perkins Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 764.

After discussion, Representative Larvadain withdrew his motion to report House Bill No. 764 with amendments. No vote was taken.

Representative Glorioso offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 764. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 764 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Melerine, Mena, Tarver, and Wilder voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 7 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 765 by Representative Taylor

Representative Taylor presented House Bill No. 765, which provides relative to a presumption of compensability under workers' compensation.

Shannon Lindsey, Injured Workers, 1680 Old Spanish Trl., Slidell, LA 70458, spoke in support of House Bill No. 765.

Jenni Whitfield, Injured Workers, 3001 Division St., Metairie, LA 70002, spoke in support of House Bill No. 765.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 765 favorably. The committee continued to debate House Bill No. 765.

Representative Melerine in the chair.

Representative Glorioso offered amendments to change the date of accident given to employers to notice given to the employer of a claim asserting a compensable injury. Representative Glorioso offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Melerine, Mena, Tarver, and Walters voted yea.

Robin Krumholt, Injured Workers, 6153 Perkins Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 765.

Patrick Robinson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 500 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 765.

Representative Horton in the chair.

Representative Larvadain's motion to report House Bill No. 765 was taken up. The motion to report House Bill No. 765 changed from favorable to with amendments after amendments were adopted. Representative Melerine objected to Representative Larvadain's motion. The executive assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Chassion, Glorioso, Larvadain, Phelps, and Walters voted yea. Representatives Bamburg, Dewitt, Echols, Horton, McMakin, Melerine, Tarver, and Wilder voted nay.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 765. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 765 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Melerine, Phelps, Tarver, Walters, and Wilder voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 6 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20 by Senator Duplessis

On behalf of Senator Duplessis, Representative Larvadain presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20, which requests the Department of Education and Workforce Commission, along with local school boards and chambers of commerce, to aggressively develop and promote high quality, youth-serving apprenticeship programs and work-based experiences for high school students.

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

Representative Wilder offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Melerine, Phelps, Tarver, Walters, and Wilder voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 919 by Representative Chenevert

Representative Chenevert presented House Bill No. 919, which provides with respect to payroll deductions.

Representative Tarver offered amendments to remove provisions of proposed law concerning the usage of membership dues for political activities and remove penalties for failing to comply with proposed law. Representative Tarver offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bamburg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, McMakin, Melerine, Phelps, Tarver, Walters, and Wilder voted yea.

Vincent Vernuccio, Workers for Opportunity, 140 W. Main St., Midland, MI 48640, spoke in support of House Bill No. 919.

Quintle Slaughter, AFSCME, 3888 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., J2, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 919.

Larry J. Carter, Jr., LFT, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 919.

Marcus Thomas, LAE, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 919.

Matt Wood, AFL-CIO, 429 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 919.

Julie R. Spencer, AFSCME and AFL-CIO, 2540 Severn Ave., Ste. 400, Metairie, LA 70002, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 919.

Peter Robins-Brown, AFL-CIO, 429 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 919.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 919 with amendments, to which Representative Phelps objected. The executive assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 919 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Bamburg, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, 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: 3 in support and 20 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 Glorioso offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bamberg, Chassion, Dewitt, Echols, Glorioso, Horton, Larvadain, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Tarver, Walters, and Wilder voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vice Chair Dodie Horton
House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Date adopted: