

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 5, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry, chair of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry, chair
Representative Michael Robert "Mike" Bayham, Jr.
Representative Beth Anne Billings
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg, vice chair
Representative Steven Jackson
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Matthew Willard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Rashid Armand Young

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Blake Byrom, legislative analyst
Natayveon Howard-Williams, committee administrative assistant
Sarah Baker, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms
Angela Mcknight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 186 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 186, which provides relative to maximum penalties for violations of ordinances in Jefferson Parish.

Mary Colleen Connick, Jefferson Parish Delegation, no witness card provided, provided a handout labeled "Memorandum", which is included as Exhibit A in the committee records.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 186 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 186 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 187 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 187, which provides relative to the classified police service in the city of Kenner.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to reduce the number of candidates that may be considered from the five highest in departmental seniority to the three highest in departmental seniority.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 187 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 187 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 246 by Representative Adams

Representative Adams presented House Bill No. 246, which provides relative to the municipal civil service system for the city of Zachary.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 246 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 246 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 197 by Representative Carver

Representative Carver presented House Bill No. 197, which provides relative to the re-creation of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Lieutenant Governor Nungresser, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, 1051 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 197 and provided a handout labeled "Office of Lieutenant Governor" which is included as Exhibit Bin the committee records.

Nancy Watkins, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, 1051 North 3rd Street, Room 241, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 197.

Jeff Harlan, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, 1051 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 197.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 197 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 197 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 253 by Representative Stagni

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 253, which provides relative to cancer screenings for certain firefighters and fire service employees.

Mary Colleen Connick, Jefferson Parish Delegation, no witness card provided, provided a handout labeled "Memorandum", which is included as Exhibit C in the committee records.

Jake Morgan, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 3165 Drusilla Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 253.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 253.

Patrick Carpenter, Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, 38021 Morris Drive, Prairieville, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 253.

Shane Spillman, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 253.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 253 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 253 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 254 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 254, which provides relative to appointments to the Shreveport Downtown Development Authority.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 254 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 254 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 295 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 295, which creates the Shreveport I-20 Economic Development District.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 295 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 295 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 307 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 307, which creates the Shreveport Healthcare and Innovation District.

Representative Jackson offered technical amendments. Representative Jackson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 307 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 307 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 271 by Representative Hughes

On behalf of Representative Hughes, Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 271, which provides relative to the parish hospital service district in New Orleans.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 271 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 271 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 272 by Representative Hughes

On behalf of Representative Hughes, Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 272, which provides relative to the Pressburg East Neighborhood Improvement and Security District in New Orleans.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 272 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 272 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 525 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 525, which provides relative to billing for services by the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board.

Paul Rainwater, 5117 Cheneau Lane, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 525.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 525 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 525 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Freiberg, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 574 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 574, which provides relative to the sewerage and water board of New Orleans.

Paul Rainwater, city of New Orleans, 5117 Cheneau Lane, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 574.

Dominique Lang, office of New Orleans City Councilman Oliver Thomas, 7040 Lake Willow Drive, New Orleans, LA 70126, spoke as the designee of an elected official on House Bill No. 574.

Wesley Bishop, office of New Orleans City Councilman Oliver Thomas, 7001 Cove Drive, New Orleans, LA 70126, spoke as the designee of an elected official on House Bill No. 574.

Representative Willard offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Willard offered a motion to adopt the substitute. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 574 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 574 was reported by substitute by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Freiberg, Knox, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Stagni voted yea.

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

Representative Farnum offered a motion to enact a 3-minute rule for questions from committee members and testimony from witnesses. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 593 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 593, which provides for a transfer of the employees of the New Orleans sewerage and water board from the city civil service system to the state civil service system.

Representative Willard offered amendments to:

1. Remove proposed law transferring sewerage and water board employees from the city civil service system to the state civil service system.
2. Add proposed law providing relative to residency requirements for employees.

Representative Willard offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Freiberg, Knox, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 593 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 593 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Freiberg, Knox, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 331 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 331, which requires the Orleans Parish School Board to be notified of certain agreements that affect property taxes levied in Orleans Parish.

Stuart Gay, New Orleans Public Schools, 2401 Westbend Parkway, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 331.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 331 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 331 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Freiberg, Knox, Owen, Stagni, and Willard 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. 562 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 562, which provides relative to the boundaries of the New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority Economic Growth and Development District.

David Phelps, New Orleans Convention Center, 504 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 562.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 562 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 562 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Freiberg, Knox, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no other announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Owen offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Domangue, Freiberg, Knox, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Foy Bryan Gadberry
House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Date adopted: