

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 9, 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 9:07 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry, chair
Representative Beth Anne Billings
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg, vice chair
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Matthew Willard
Representative Rashid Armand Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Michael Robert "Mike" Bayham, Jr.
Representative Steven Jackson
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Joseph A. Stagni

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Blake Byrom, legislative analyst
Natayveon Howard-Williams, committee administrative assistant
Frank Meyer, clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 139 by Senator Hensgens

Senator Hensgens presented Senate Bill No. 139, which provides relative to the civil service status of employees of the Delcambre Housing Authority and the Gueydan Housing Authority.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 139 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 139 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Knox, and Willard voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 15 by Senator Edmonds

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 15, which provides for the governing authority of the St. George Fire Protection District to create the competitive position of deputy fire chief.

Jerry Tarleton, St. George Fire Department, 14100 Airline Highway, St. George, LA 70817, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 15.

Dustin Yates, St. George Fire Department, 14100 Airline Highway, St. George, LA 70817, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 15.

Adrienne T. Bordelon, office of state examiner, Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service, 7722 Office Park Boulevard, Suite #500, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 15.

Jason Turner, Saint George Firefighters, 17125 Acadia Way, Prairieville, LA, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 15.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 15.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to remove the provision requiring the deputy fire chief to have at least 15 years of full-time fire service experience with St. George Fire Protection District, and to provide that a deputy fire chief shall be demoted to the position in the class he held immediately preceding his appointment if he is demoted or otherwise vacates the position.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Knox, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to offered a motion to enact a 3-minute rule for questions from committee members and testimony from witnesses, to which Representative Billings objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, and Young voted yea. Representatives Billings, Fontenot, Knox, and Marcelle voted nay.

Representative Willard offered a motion to suspend 3-minute rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Knox, Marcelle, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 15 with amendments, to which Representative Willard objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Carver, Farnum, Fontenot, and Freiberg voted yea. Representatives Billings, Cox, Domangue, Knox, Marcelle, Willard, and Young voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 49 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

The committee stood at ease at 10:54 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:03 a.m.

Senate Bill No. 89 by Senator Fields

On behalf of Senator Fields, Representative Marcelle presented Senate Bill No. 89, which provides for the creation of the Delmont Neighborhood Crime Prevention District.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to:

1. Remove provisions of proposed law that authorize the parish governing authority to impose the fee and instead authorize the district to impose the fee.
2. Remove a requirement that the metropolitan council approve the district's budget and instead require the district to approve the budget.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Marcelle, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 89 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 89 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Marcelle, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 90 by Senator Fields

On behalf of Senator Fields, Representative Marcelle presented Senate Bill No. 90, which provides for the creation of the Brookstown Neighborhood Association Crime Prevention District.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to:

1. Remove provisions of proposed law that authorize the parish governing authority to impose the fee and instead authorize the district to impose the fee.
2. Remove a requirement that the metropolitan council approve the district's budget and instead require the district to approve the budget.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Marcelle, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 90 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 90 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Marcelle, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 274 by Senator Reese

On behalf of Senator Reese, Representative Farnum presented Senate Bill No. 274, which provides for the administration of funds of the fire district in certain parishes.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 274 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 274 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Marcelle, Willard, and Young voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS**PRESENTATIONS**

Presentations were made relative to the Louisiana Workforce Commission - Community Services Block Grant program.

Susana Schowen, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 North 23rd Street, spoke for information only.

Rhea Woods, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 North 23rd Street, spoke for information only and presented a PowerPoint presentation and provided a handout entitled "Community Services Block Grant", labeled Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Genevieve Fields, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only.

Vernadine Mabry, city of Baton Rouge (East Baton Rouge Parish), 4523 Plank Road, spoke for information only.

Melita Mosby, city of Baton Rouge, 13839 Keever Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke for information only.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Gadberry announced that action on House Bill No. 941, which provides relative to the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, was voluntarily deferred.

Chair Gadberry announced that action on Senate Bill No. 201, which provides for the creation of the Cajundome Commission, was voluntarily deferred.

Chair Gadberry announced that action on House Bill No. 907, which provides for the governance of state museums and the transfer of museums from the Department of State to the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, was voluntarily deferred.

Chair Gadberry announced that action on Senate Bill No. 136, which provides for residency requirements relative to the Ernest N. Morial-New Orleans Exhibition Authority, was voluntarily deferred.

Chair Gadberry announced that action on Senate Bill No. 245, which provides for the location of the Louisiana Vietnam Veterans Memorial, was voluntarily deferred.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Willard offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Marcelle, Willard, and Young voted yea.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: