

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 16, 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 9:16 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 Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg, vice chair
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Matthew Willard
Representative Michael T. Johnson, ex officio

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Michael Robert "Mike" Bayham, Jr.
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Steven Jackson
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Rashid Armand Young

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Blake Byrom, legislative analyst
Natayveon Howard-Williams, committee administrative assistant
Alexandra Cravins, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Frank Meyer, clerk
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Gadberry announced that action on House Bill No. 907 by Representative Bagley, 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.

Senate Bill No. 94 by Senator Coussan

Senator Coussan presented Senate Bill No. 94, which provides for the administrative procedures for approving or certifying certain plats in Lafayette Parish.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 94 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 94 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, and Willard voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 201 by Senator Coussan

Senator Coussan presented Senate Bill No. 201, which provides for the creation of the Cajundome Commission.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 201 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 201 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, and Willard voted yea.

Pam Deville, Cajundome, 444 Cajundome Boulevard, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 201.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 480 by Senator Boudreaux

Senator Boudreaux presented Senate Bill No. 480, which provides for the powers and functions of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 480 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 480 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Mike Johnson, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, and Willard, voted yea.

Monique Boulet, mayor-president of Lafayette Consolidated Government, no address provided, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 480.

Mandi Mitchell, Lafayette Economic Development Authority, 211 East Devalcourt Street, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 480.

Devon Tre Norman, The Village 337, 317 12th Street, Lafayette, LA 70501, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 480.

Christopher Williams, Sun Companies, 3419 North West Evangeline Thruway, Carencro, LA, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 480.

Kenneth P. Boudreaux, Lafayette City Council, P.O. Box 92712, Lafayette, LA 70509, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 480.

Cory Levier, Citizens of Northside (Lafayette)/C.B.C., 147 McBride Drive, Opelousas, LA 70570, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 480.

Bishop Carlos Harvin, North Lafayette Redevelopment Team, 113 Goldman Street, Lafayette, LA 70501, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 480.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 480 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Representative Owen offered a motion to enact the 3-minute rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Johnson, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, and Willard voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 481 by Senator Boudreaux

Senator Boudreaux presented Senate Bill No. 481, which provides for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Economic Development District.

Representative Freiberg offered technical amendments. Representative Freiberg 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, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Mike Johnson, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 481 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 481 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Mike Johnson, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, and Willard voted yea.

Joe Sawa, President of Louisiana at Lafayette, no witness card provided, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 481.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 365 by Senator Harris

Senator Harris presented Senate Bill No. 365, which provides for the French Quarter Management District.

Representative Willard offered amendments to change the amount of certain required budget dedications from 15% to no less than 15%.

Representative Willard 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, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Mike Johnson, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 365 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 365 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Mike Johnson, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, 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.

Senate Bill No. 364 by Senator Harris

Senator Harris presented Senate Bill No. 364, which provides for the Downtown Development District of the city of New Orleans.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 364 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 364 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Mike Johnson, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, and Willard voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 305 by Senator Harris

Senator Harris presented Senate Bill No. 305, which provides for a special master for the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments to:

1. Add certain agencies and representatives, including other parish governments, that are required to work in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) in developing a flood prevention plan.
2. Requires that a meeting be held every quarter rather than every year.
3. Add a requirement that the discussion of the plan include multiparish storm drainage predictions and emergency response priorities.
4. Make changes to the agencies and entities to which the plan is required to be presented.
5. Add requirement that the plan be presented on an annual basis.
6. Add requirement that the board and DOTD sign a cooperative endeavor agreement to allow contracting responsibilities for certain capital improvement projects.
7. Add requirement that the board and DOTD create and update annually a capital improvement plan and a maintenance plan regarding the infrastructure of the board.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Mike Johnson, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, and Owen voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 305 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 305 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Mike Johnson, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, and Willard voted yea.

Paul Rainwater, 5117 Cheneau Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 305.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 1 designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 408 by Senator Fields

On behalf of Senator Fields, Representative Marcelle presented Senate Bill No. 408, which provides for economic development districts.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 408 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 408 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Mike Johnson, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, and Willard voted yea.

Clarence Lymon, LA Uniform Local Sales Tax Board, 7722 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 408.

Renée Ellender Roberie, LA Remote Sellers Commission, 7722 Office Park Boulevard Suite, 400, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 408.

Kressynda Krennerich, Ascension Parish Sales and Use Tax, P.O. Box 1718, Gonzales, LA 70707, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 408.

Paulette Bailey Wilson, Louisiana Municipal Association, 10191 Patriot Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 408.

Senate Bill No. 245 by Senator Stine

On behalf Senator Stine, Representative Farnum presented Senate Bill No. 245, which provides for the location of the Louisiana Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 245 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 245 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry Billings, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, and Willard voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no other announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Newell offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, Owen, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: