

House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 15, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Ryan Bourriaque, chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Ryan Bourriaque, chairman
Representative Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Jacob Braud
Representative Tehmi Jahi Chassion
Representative Kellee Hennessy Dickerson
Representative Bryan Fontenot, vice chairman
Representative Steven Jackson
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Joy Walters
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative C. Travis Johnson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allison Williams, legislative analyst
Jennifer Winkler, legislative analyst
Darcas Deverteuil, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms
Donell Francois, sergeant at arms
Quinn Williams, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 811 by Representative Lacombe

Representative Bourriaque announced that action on House Bill No. 811, which adds certain persons as authorized operators of off-road vehicles, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 935 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Bourriaque announced that action on House Bill No. 935, which provides relative to commercial motor vehicle inspections, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 936 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Bourriaque announced that action on House Bill No. 936, which provides with respect to flood control, was voluntarily deferred.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 25 by Representative Bourriaque

Representative Bourriaque presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 25, which approves the annual state integrated coastal protection plan for Fiscal Year 2025, as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board.

Glenn Ledet, CPRA, 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 25, and presented a PowerPoint and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Brent Haase, CPRA, 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 25, and presented part of the PowerPoint with Glenn Ledet.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 25 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 25 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Schamerhorn, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 375 by Senator Kleinpeter

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Bill No. 375, which creates a special prestige license plate for "Telecommunicators" and for the "Special Needs Advocacy, Support and Inclusion of Abilities".

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 375 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 375 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Schamerhorn, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 260 by Senator Cloud

Senator Cloud presented Senate Bill No. 260, which provides for amending and transferring commercial truck permits.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 260 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 260 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Schamerhorn, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley 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. 447 by Representative Illg

On behalf of Representative Illg, Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser presented House Bill No. 447, which increases the driver's license fee and the specific portion directed to the litter abatement fund, and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Susan Russell, KLB, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 447.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 N. 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 447.

Representative Bourriaque offered amendments to:

- (1) Increase the driver's license fee for all classes of drivers (Class A, B, C, D, and E) by \$6.00 as an additional source of revenue and require those funds to be forwarded to the litter abatement account.

- (2) Add a two-year sunset law on this Act.
- (3) Make technical changes.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Schamerhorn, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Bill No. 447 with amendments, to which Representative Schamerhorn objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 447 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Schamerhorn and Tarver voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 957 by Representative Jordan

Representative Jordan presented House Bill No. 957, which prohibits vehicle manufacturers and distributors from sharing driver information without the driver's consent.

Dan Casey, OMV, 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 957.

Renee Amar, LMTA, 325 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 957.

Coulter McMahan, Louisiana Automobile Dealers Association, 660 Laurel Street, Suite E, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 957 favorably, to which Representative Tarver objected. Representative Tarver offered a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 957. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 957 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 5 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 67 by Senator Wheat

Senator Wheat presented Senate Bill No. 67, which designates a portion of Interstate 55 in Tangipahoa Parish as the "Trooper Hung Le Memorial Highway".

Captain Joey Piglia, Louisiana State Police, 7818 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 67.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 67 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 67 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Phelps, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 950 by Representative Wilder

Representative Wilder presented House Bill No. 950, which provides relative to towing vehicle and axle weight limits.

Representative Bourriaque offered amendments to:

- (1) Change provision from when a towing company is engaged in a consensual vehicle tow with the agreement of the owner from private property to when a Louisiana licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle tow.
- (2) Add weight limitations to the expectations in proposed law (22,000 pounds applicable to single axle vehicles) and provide that the exceptions are applicable on state-maintained highways except for the Interstate System.
- (3) Add additional provisions to allow for exceptions when a Louisiana licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle tow, to provide weight limitations (37,000 pounds applicable to tandem axle vehicles; 45,000 pounds applicable to tridum axle vehicles; and 53,000 pounds applicable to quadrum axle vehicles) and to provide for applicability of the exceptions on state-maintained highways except for the Interstate System.
- (4) Make technical changes.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Moore, Phelps, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Jared Varnado, Varnado & Sons Towing, 2500 Florida Boulevard, Denham Springs, LA 70726, spoke in support of House Bill No. 950.

Renee Amar, LMTA, 325 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 950.

Joe Donahue, DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 950.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Bill No. 950 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 950 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Moore, Phelps, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 45 by Senator McMath

On behalf of Senator McMath, Representative Bourriaque presented Senate Bill No. 45, which designates portions of certain highways.

Representative Bourriaque offered amendments to:

- (1) Decrease the cost of implementation for one of the designations from \$1,680 to \$550.
- (2) Add language directing the Dept. of Transportation and Development to erect and maintain signs for the designation provided local or private monies are received that cover the department's cost, not to exceed \$1,680 per sign.
- (3) Make technical changes.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 N. 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 45.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 45 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 45 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 48 by Representative Wright

On behalf of Representative Wright, Representative Bourriaque presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 48, which urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to study I-12 express tolling operations compared to how other states implement express tolling.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 48 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 48 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

The committee stood at ease at 11:06 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:06 a.m.

House Bill No. 825 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 825, which provides relative to dump trucks.

Representative Bourriaque offered amendments to:

- 1) Change the allowable variance in proposed law for dump trucks hauling concrete or construction aggregates from 10% to 5% of the total gross weight.
- (2) Add provision that specifies the trucks cannot exceed 80,000 pounds plus a tolerance of 2%.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Chassion, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Bill No. 825 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 825 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Chassion, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Walters, and Wiley 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.

The committee stood at ease at 11:09a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

House Bill No. 880 by Representative Schamerhorn

Representative Schamerhorn presented House Bill No. 880, which provides with respect to the renewal of truck registrations.

Representative Schamerhorn offered amendments to:

- (1) Conform language in present law (R.S. 47:462(B)(6)) to match language in proposed law which provides an exception to the annual registration requirement in present law for trucks weighing 10,000 pounds to 16,000 pounds to renew every four years.
- (2) Make technical changes.

Representative Schamerhorn offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Schamerhorn offered a motion to report House Bill No. 880 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 880 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 53 by Senator Womack

On behalf of Senator Womack, Representative Bourriaque presented Senate Bill No. 53, which designates a portion of Louisiana Highway 15 in Franklin Parish as the "Lainey Wilson Highway".

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 53 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 53 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

The committee stood at ease at 11:15 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:16 a.m.

Senate Bill No. 204 by Senator Mizell

On behalf of Senator Mizell, Representative Bourriaque presented Senate Bill No. 204, which designates a portion of Louisiana Highway 1064 in Tangipahoa Parish as the "Rev. Alfred L. Hart Memorial Highway".

Representative Chassion offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 204 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 204 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Walters offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Ryan Bourriaque
House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Date adopted: