

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
March 20, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Julie Emerson, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Julie Emerson, chairman
Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass, vice chairman
Representative Dennis Bamburg, Jr.
Representative Michael Robert "Mike" Bayham, Jr.
Representative Beth Anne Billings
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Jack "Jay" William Gallé, Jr.
Representative Chance Keith Henry
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Brach Jerad Myers
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Larry Selders
Representative Roger William Wilder, III
Representative Matthew Willard
Representative Rashid Armand Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jacob Wilkinson, committee administrative assistant
Brittany Lea, executive assistant
Alison Pryor, senior attorney

Drew Murray, legislative analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. INSTRUMENTS TO BE HEARD

House Bill No. 718 by Representative Carver

Representative Carver presented House Bill No. 718, which repeals certain provisions of law referring to inheritance taxes.

Representative Bayham offered a motion to report House Bill No. 718 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 718 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Emerson, Brass, Bamburg, Bayham, Billings, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, McMahon, Myers, Orgeron, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 259 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 259, which reduces the severance tax rate for oil over a certain period of time and specifies the severance tax rate for oil produced from certain wells.

Representative Jacob Landry, District 49, 106 E Edwards St., Erath, LA 70533, spoke in sponsorship of this measure.

Mr. Mike Mancla, president, Louisiana Oil and Gas Association (LOGA), 1331 Lakeridge Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 259 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee record.

Mr. Ben Vincent, Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO), 900 N. Third St., 18th floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 259.

Vice chair Brass in the chair.

Mr. Guy Cormier, executive director, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 N. Seventh St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition of House Bill No. 259.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 259 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 259 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brass,

Bamburg, Bayham, Billings, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, Mandie Landry, McMahan, Myers, Orgeron, Selders, Willard, and Young voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 418 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 418, which reduces severance tax rates on oil and gas produced from inactive wells and orphan wells.

Representative Jacob Landry, District 49, 106 E Edwards St., Erath, LA 70533, spoke in sponsorship of this measure.

Mr. Mike Mancla, president, Louisiana Oil and Gas Association(LOGA), 1331 Lakeridge Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 418.

Representative Brass offered amendments to change the effective date of proposed law from July 1, 2024, to October 1, 2024.

Mr. Guy Cormier, executive director, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 N. Seventh St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 418.

Representative Brass offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brass, Bamburg, Bayham, Billings, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, Mandie Landry, McMahan, Myers, Orgeron, Selders, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 418 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 418 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brass, Bamburg, Bayham, Billings, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, Mandie Landry, McMahan, Myers, Orgeron, Selders, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support. 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 Orgeron offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brass, Bamburg, Bayham, Billings, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, Mandie Landry, McMahan, Myers, Orgeron, Selders, Willard, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Julie Emerson
House Committee on Ways and Means