

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 22, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Julie Emerson, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 10:04 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 Beth Anne Billings
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Jack "Jay" William Gallé, Jr.
Representative Chance Keith Henry
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Brach Jerad Myers
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Roger William Wilder, III
Representative Matthew Willard
Representative Rashid Armand Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Michael Robert "Mike" Bayham, Jr.
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Larry Selders

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Drew Murray, legislative analyst
Claire Vermaelen, capital outlay specialist

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. INSTRUMENTS TO BE HEARD

House Bill No. 827 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 827, which provides relative to the sales and use tax rebate on the sale of certain fiber-optic cable equipment.

Representative Emerson offered amendments which: (1) eliminate the local sales and use tax rebate for purchases of certain communications service equipment; (2) change the term "fiber-optic cable equipment" to "broadband equipment" in the heading of the section of law that the bill amends; (3) delete the restriction on the rebate requiring that it be afforded only to winning bidders in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction held by the Federal Communications Commission; (4) delete the defined terms "fiber-optic cable equipment" and "unserved area" and their corresponding definitions; (5) institute the terms "broadband communications service", "communications provider", and "equipment used to provide broadband communications service" and provide definitions for those terms; (6) cap the overall total of rebates paid pursuant to proposed law at \$15 million per fiscal year; (7) provide an effective date of July 1 for proposed law; (8) revise the title language of the bill; and (9) make technical and conforming changes.

Mr. Scott Mackey, Cellular Telephone Industries Association (CITA) - Wireless Association, 1 Blanchard Ct., Suite 101, Montpelier, VT 05602, spoke in support of House Bill No. 827.

Representative Emerson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Emerson, Brass, Bamburg, Billings, Bryant, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, Myers, Orgeron, Wilder, and Young voted yea.

Mr. Luke Morris, assistant secretary, Louisiana Department of Revenue (LDR), 617 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 827.

Secretary Richard Nelson, LDR, 617 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 827.

Representative Emerson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 827. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 827 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Emerson, Brass, Bamburg, Billings, Bryant, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, Myers, Orgeron, Wilder, 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.

Prepared statements were received for House Bill No. 827 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Vice Chair Brass in the Chair

House Bill No. 2 by Representative Emerson

Representative Emerson presented House Bill No. 2, which provides for the comprehensive Capital Outlay budget.

Representative Echols offered amendments which change General Obligation Bond funding as follows:

Priority 1	\$	27,478,000
Priority 5	\$	98,363,386

Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Emerson, Brass, Bamburg, Billings, Bryant, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, Myers, Orgeron, Wilder, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 2 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 2 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Emerson, Brass, Bamburg, Billings, Bryant, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, Myers, Orgeron, Wilder, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to authorize staff to make technical corrections to amendments for House Bill No. 2. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Emerson, Brass, Bamburg, Billings, Bryant, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, Myers, Orgeron, Wilder, Willard, and Young 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.

House Bill No. 3 by Representative Emerson

Representative Emerson presented House Bill No. 3, which provides for the Omnibus Bond Act.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 3 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 3 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Emerson, Brass, Bamburg, Billings, Bryant, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, Myers, Orgeron, Wilder, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Brass offered a motion to make House Bill No. 3 Special Order No. 3 for April 25, 2024. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Emerson, Brass, Bamburg, Billings, Bryant, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, Myers, Orgeron, Wilder, Willard, and Young voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Henry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Emerson, Brass, Bamburg, Billings, Bryant, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, Myers, Orgeron, Wilder, Willard, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Julie Emerson
House Committee on Ways and Means