

House Committee on Ways and Means

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 13, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Julie Emerson, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, called the meeting to order at 10:08 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 Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Jack "Jay" William Gallé, Jr.
Representative Chance Keith Henry
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Rashid Armand Young

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jacob Wilkinson, committee administrative assistant
Alison Pryor, senior attorney
Drew Murray, legislative analyst

Claire Vermaelen, capital outlay specialist

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

III. INSTRUMENTS TO BE HEARD

Senate Bill No. 451 by Senator Bouie

Senator Bouie presented Senate Bill No. 451, which extends the sunset of the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program.

Mr. James Lee, legislative liaison, Louisiana Department of Revenue (DOR), 617 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 451.

Secretary Richard Nelson, Louisiana DOR, 617 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 451.

Mr. Harrison Crabtree, director, World Trade Center New Orleans, 1100 Poydras St., Suite 3475, New Orleans, LA 70163, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 451.

Mr. Bill Langkopp, executive director, Louisiana Hotel and Lodging Association, 201 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70170, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 451.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 451 favorably, to which Representative Wilder objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas, 10 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Bayham, Bryant, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Selders, and Willard voted yea. Representatives Bamburg, Billings, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, McMahan, Myers, Orgeron, and Wilder voted nay. Representative Emerson abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 505 by Senator Miller

Senator Miller presented Senate Bill No. 505, which provides relative to the assessment, payment, and allocation of ad valorem taxes.

Ms. Katie Belanger, vice president, Louisiana Land Title Association(LLTA), 433 Metairie Rd., Suite 525, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 505

Secretary Richard Nelson, Louisiana Department of Revenue, 617 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 505.

Ms. Melissa Castille, attorney, US Assets LLC, 18165 F. Petroleum Dr., Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition of Senate Bill No. 505.

No action was taken on Senate Bill No. 505.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, 2 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received for Senate Bill No. 505 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 318 by Senator Womack

On behalf of Senator Womack, Representative LaCombe presented Senate Bill No. 318, which provides relative to the capital outlay process.

Representative Emerson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 318 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 318 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Emerson, Brass, Bamburg, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Myers, Orgeron, and Wilder voted yeas.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

1. To Review and approve the third party convenience fee schedule for certain online transactions pursuant to R.S. 49:316.1 for the Department of Transportation and Development

Mr. Kevin Reed, chief maintenance engineer, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), 1212 East Highway Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only regarding the review and approval for third-party convenience fee schedules and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to approve. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Emerson, Bamburg, Bayham, Billings, Echols, Farnum, Gallé, Henry, Mandie Landry, McMahan, Orgeron, Wilder, and Willard voted yeas.

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

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Emerson announced that Senate Bills 119 and 500 will be voluntarily deferred.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Emerson, Brass, Bamburg, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, LaCombe, McMahan, Myers, Orgeron, and Wilder voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Julie Emerson
House Committee on Ways and Means