

House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 22, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Ryan Bourriaque, chair of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Joy Walters

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allison Williams, attorney
Jaclyn Champagne, attorney
Darcas Deverteuil, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

Ralph Palmer, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 209 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 209, which provides relative to the financing structure for public works projects in Ascension Parish.

Richard M. Compton, Ascension Parish Government, 15247 Bayou Trace, Gonzales, LA 70737, spoke in support of House Bill No. 209.

Ruth Phillips, CAO, Ascension Parish Government, 615 E. Worthey St., Gonzales LA, 70737, spoke in support of House Bill No. 209.

Representative Wiley offered an amendment to change the contract amount from in excess of \$50,000 to in excess of \$500,000 for a bond to be required. Representative Wiley offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Moore, Schamerhorn, Spell, and Wiley voted yea.

Derrell Cohoon, AGC, 714 N. 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 209.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 209 with amendments, to which Representative Schamerhorn objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 209 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Spell, and Wiley voted yea. Representative Schamerhorn voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 167 by Representative Taylor

Representative Taylor presented House Bill No. 167, which designates a portion of Louisiana Highway 3188 as the "Veterans Memorial Highway".

Joseph Accardo Jr., Self, American Legion Post 383, 52 Holly Dr., Laplace, LA 70068, spoke in support of House Bill No. 167 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

John Michael Anthony, American Legion Post 383, 605 Desoto Dr., Laplace, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 167.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 167 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 167 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley 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.

House Bill No. 312 by Representative Gadberry

Representative Gadberry presented House Bill No. 312, which prohibits the state and any of its political subdivisions or agencies from using price or price-related information as a factor in the selection of architectural and engineering professional services for certain projects.

Representative Jackson offered an amendment to make technical changes. Representative Jackson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

Barker Dirmann, ACEC Louisiana, 9643 Brookline, Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70709, spoke in support of House Bill No. 312.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 312 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 312 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, 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.

House Bill No. 508 by Representative Larvadain

Representative Larvadain presented House Bill No. 508, which restricts a parking fee exemption to Louisiana disabled veterans parking at cruise terminals for the Port of New Orleans.

Matt Gresham, Port of New Orleans, 1350 Port of NO Place, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 508.

Christian Rhodes, Port of New Orleans, 504 Lakeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 508.

Representative Boyer offered a motion to report House Bill No. 508 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 508 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, 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. 524 by Representative Spell

Representative Spell presented House Bill No. 524, which provides relative to fire departments and public safety departments or agencies entering into an agreement with group purchasing organizations.

Briez Vanderberg-Reed, Sourcewell, 309 Settlers Trace, Lafayette, LA 70708, spoke in support of House Bill No. 524.

Representative Dickerson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 524 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 524 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 620 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 620, which establishes procedures to eliminate traffic congestion in neighborhoods surrounding certain schools in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Representative Phelps offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add additional roadways to the access restrictions applicable during drop-off and pick-up times.

Representative Phelps 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, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

J. Kent Rogers, NLCOG, 625 Texas St., Suite 200, Shreveport, LA 71101, spoke in support of House Bill No. 620 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 620 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 620 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 616 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 616, which authorizes the Port of New Orleans to utilize public private partnerships for certain projects.

Chris Kane, Adams & Reese, Port of New Orleans, 701 Poydras St. Suite 4500, New Orleans, LA 70131, spoke in support of House Bill No. 616.

Jean-Paul Escudier, Port of New Orleans, 1350 Port of New Orleans Pl., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 616.

Representative Bourriaque offered amendments to:

- (1) Expands what can be included in the public-private partnership projects.
- (2) Specifies what relocation obligation certain entities may have if their facilities will be affected by a roadway project.
- (3) Adds that the board may also accept financing from the United States or state of Louisiana for projects.
- (4) Adds that the board must comply with the requirements to file a sworn statement of amounts due with the Department of Transportation and Development and all of the department's payment requirements and that the board is substituted for the authority of the project.
- (5) Specifies that the board controls access to the roadway, allowing entry only at designed points.
- (6) Specifies that the board determines and approves the connections granted to municipal, parish, or state highways to the roadway.

- (7) Removes a requirement that the board notify other relevant entities, in addition to local governmental subdivisions, before establishing any controlled-access roadways.
- (8) Specifies that the board's expropriation may be from legal entities that may have power of expropriation, and no recriminatory expropriation can be allowed against the board.
- (9) Specifies entry and use of private property, with consent not obtained by the owner, cannot be considered trespassing or a taking under expropriation statutes for purposes of the roadway project.
- (10) Clarifies that the board has full power and authority without any statutory limitations that might otherwise exist in any area outside of Subpart D of Part 2 of Chapter 1 of title 34 of the La. Revised Statutes.
- (11) Make technical changes.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

Jasmine Brown, GNO, INC., 1100 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 616.

Harrison Crabtree, World Trade Center New Orleans, 1100 Poydras St. Suite 3475, New Orleans, LA 70163, spoke in support of House Bill No. 616.

Representative Michael Bayham, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616, and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Gillis McClosken, St. Bernard Parish, 636 Norton Ave., Arabi, LA 70032, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Ryan Randall, St. Bernard Parish, 3204 Van Cleave Dr., Meraux, LA 70075, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Fred Everhardt, St. Bernard Parish, 2400 Giwa Dr., St. Bernard, LA 70080, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Patrice Cusimano, St. Bernard Parish Council, 433 Angela Ave., Arabi, LA 70032, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Representative Fontenot in the chair.

Perry Nicosia, District Attorney, St. Bernard School Board, 1101 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616, and provided a handout, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Chair Bourriague in the chair.

Sidney Torres, 8121 Saro Ln., St. Bernard, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 616.

Representative Phelps offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 616, to which Representative Tarver objected. Representative Tarver offered a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 616 with amendments, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, the substitute motion to report House Bill No. 616 with amendments failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Bourriague, Fontenot, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, and Spell, voted nay.

The original motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 616 was considered. Without objection, House Bill No. 616 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriague, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, 7 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 616.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

To consider the use of the Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) delivery method for the development of a Multipurpose Educational Complex in Avoyelles Parish

Representative Bourriague offered a motion to approve the use of the Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) delivery method for the development of a Multipurpose Educational Complex in Avoyelles Parish pursuant to RS 38:2225.2.4. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriague, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

Consideration and adoption of committee minutes dated July 27, 2023 and November 20, 2024

The minutes from the 2023-2024 Interim dated July 27, 2023 and November 20, 2024 were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Jackson offered a motion to approve the

minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriague, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Boyer offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriague, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Phelps, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Ryan Bourriague
House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Date adopted: