REAPPORTIONMENT GETS FISCAL LABEL

Last Day to Introduce

Bills Passes

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BATON ROUGE, La. — Reapportionment played peekaboo in and out of the Louisiana House and Senate Wednesday before finally being tagged with a fiscal label acceptable to both houses.

It barely got under the wire. Wednesday was the last day to introduce bills.

After the Senate overrode the screening by the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee — having earlier given reapportionment a three-fourths vote for introduction as non-fiscal which was unacceptable to the House — the lower chamber later accepted it.

The Senate continued to hammer out votes, admitting some “emergency” bills, some local matters, most of the time by voice vote as the electronic voting machine was idled by a breakdown. An estimated 300 votes were expected to be completed by midnight.

Although reapportionment finally won out, a package of Mafia bills was voted down for the second and last time. A few were later salvaged when the screening committee said they were actually fiscal in the first place.

STAR BILLING

But it was reapportionment that got the star billing of the final day for introduction of bills. The scenario read like this:

—Sen. Jules Moillere of Metairie first tried to override the report of the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee.

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Details of House action on reapportionment may be found in Sec. 1, Page 2.

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Senate Accepts Reseat Bills

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that reapportionment was non-fiscal.

Mollere was persuaded to return that motion to the calendared
and attempt to get a three-fourths consent — which admitted the bills were non-fiscal,
but the Legislative would entertain it anyway. He was a
23 to 5 vote and the three bills
went to the House for consent.

The House told four votes
short, which meant that they
would not consent for the non-fiscal bills to be introduced in
that chamber.

Mollere then took his motion
from the calendar to override the Senate committee label of
non-fiscal. The Senate agreed 26
to 8. That was enough, because
the motion only required a major-
ity.

Back to the Senate went the
message that the bills had been
arbitrarily declined by the Senate. The Senate agreed.

Mollere and reappportionment
officially became a subject matter for this session to decide.

OVERRULING ASKED

When the report came
Senate and Governmental Affairs ruling non-fiscal the reapportionment bills. Sen. Mollere
asked the report to be overruled.

He said his motion was based on the opinion of the attorney
general that the Legislature was
authorized by the Constitution to
reapportion in this session.

Sen. Jesse Knowles of Lake
Charles. said the committee heard
the bills again, and the bills were heard twice, and for chairman it was his duty to ask the Senate to uphold the
committee's report.

Because the committee was to meet again later Wednesday.

Sen. Theodore M. Hickey said
still another hearing when all the committee could be present. Mollere said it
was recommitted Tuesday because there were two members of the
committee absent, and there were two absent Wednesday.

Hickey moved to re-Intro.

As other senators took
microphones to urge reapportion-
ment now, some members of the Senate voted to
hold their own conven-
tions, at one time clustering around Mollere at his desk.

Then Hickey returned to
state his position that was
not too long and, "and because there
was so much misunderstanding about his and the reasons for the
motion failed.

On the abolition of the ABC

The Senate voted 16 to 21 to delay
immediate vote on the issue.

On a resolution to introduc-

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The Senate voted 21 to 17, and the resolution failed.

On creating a legislative study of civil service, the Senate voted 16 to 21 to delay
immediate vote on the issue.

On immunity for witnesses
before legislative committees, the Senate voted 16 to 21 to delay
immediate vote on the issue.

On immunity of witnesses appearing in criminal court, the Senate refused 22 to 14 to permit its introduction.

On the effort to introduce a bill permitting the appeal of the representative of the state to higher courts when lower
courts commit serious errors, the Senate voted 26 to 2 to delay
immediate vote on the issue.

On a resolution to introduce

on a bill outlawing gambling on
precincts where there is the sale of alcoholic beverages, the Senate refused 36 to 12 to admit
immediate vote on the issue.

Expenditures

On the effort for consent for a bill requesting that expenditures and contribu-
tions be made.

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tions, the vote was 25 to 10 to refuse introduction.

Mollere Attempts Override Again

After the House failed by four votes to give a three-fourths vote, Mollere attempted once again to override the committee's refusal to allow state police to enter into a compact with other states for the exchange of information in organized crime. It failed 24 to 6.

He then offered a resolution asking for consent to introduce a bill prohibiting members of the Mineral Board from having an interest in oil and gas leases which they administer. The Senate voted 25 to 9 to refuse permission.

Duplantier then tried to introduce a bill regarding filing of campaign contributions and expenditures. This failed 23 to 11.

By 34 to 3, the Senate voted to allow the introduction of a bill creating the post of judicial administrator for the criminal district courts of the parish of Orleans.

The Senate voted 32 to 3 to override the committee and re-apportionment was declared fiscal. The Senate then admitted the other two bills by majority votes.

Again the committee recessed and again the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee ground out a verdict on more bills, declaring some fiscal.

 Duplantier offered a resolution seeking consent for a bill to allow state police to enter into a compact with other states for the exchange of information in organized crime. It failed 24 to 6.

ONE-TERM ISSUE

By 31 to 5 the Senate gave consent to Sen. Duval to introduce a constitutional amendment which would restrict the term of office of governor to one term, amending the provision adopted in 1966 allowing governors to seek a second consecutive term.