

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
March 16, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Sherman Q. Mack, chairman of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Sherman Q. Mack, chairman
Representative Bryan Adams
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Stephen C. Dwight
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Frank A. Howard
Representative Edward C. "Ted" James II
Representative Terry C. Landry, Sr.
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Steve E. Pylant, vice chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative John H. Bagneris
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Randal L. Gaines
Representative Lowell C. "Chris" Hazel
Representative Joseph P. Lopinto III

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lori Hutson, secretary
A. Gregory Riley, attorney

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

III. OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Mack introduced the committee members and staff of the administration of criminal justice committee.

IV. DISCUSSION OF ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Chairman Mack referred the members to the organizational meeting hand-out, included in this file as Exhibit "A", and reviewed the protocol and the purpose of the committee, the jurisdiction, rules, and procedures. He reviewed the committee rules and stressed the importance of the timely submission of amendments.

Representative Adams offered a motion to adopt the committee rules. Without objection, the rules were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Mack, Adams, Bacala, Dwight, Hodges, Howard, Terry Landry, Marcelle, and Pylant voted yea.

V. REMARKS

Secretary James M. LeBlanc, Department of Public Safety and Corrections, P.O. Box 94304, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-0304, (225)342-6702, provided an overview of the department and referred the members to the website www.doc.louisiana.gov. He introduced Undersecretary Thomas Bickham and the legislative liaison, Natalie LaBorde.

Colonel Mike Edmonson, Louisiana State Police and deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 7919 Independence Blvd., A-3, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225)922-6118, provided his credentials and an overview of the various duties of the state police in conjunction with other state agencies.

Judge Bob Morrison, Louisiana District Judges Association, P.O. Box 788, Amite, LA 70422, (985)748-9445, gave a brief overview of the trend of reentry courts and indigent defense.

E. Pete Adams, executive director, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 1645 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225)343-0171, detailed the work of the LDAA with a PowerPoint, included in this file as Exhibit "B".

Michael Ranatza, executive director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225)343-8402, introduced Assistant Director Gary Bennett, who provided the committee with a PowerPoint, included in this file as Exhibit "C", that detailed the role of a sheriff.

Jim Craft, executive director, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, P.O. Box 3133, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225)342-1500, introduced Assistant Director Bob Wertz. He described the various duties and responsibilities of the commission.

Chairman Ronnie Jones, Louisiana Gaming Control Board, 7901 Independence Blvd., Ste. A, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225)325-1846, described the structure and the jurisdiction of the board.

Director Brandon Fremin, Attorney General's Office, criminal division, Livingston Building, P.O. Box 94005, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225)326-6200, referred the members to Exhibit "D" and described the duties of the criminal division.

Director Christopher Hebert, Attorney General's Office, gaming division, Livingston Building, P.O. Box 94005, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225)326-6500, referred the members to Exhibit "D" and detailed the duties of the gaming division.

Director Michael Legendre, Department of Revenue, office of charitable gaming, P.O. Box 98502, Baton Rouge, LA 70884, (225)925-1835, provided a handout to the members, included in this file as Exhibit "E", that described the history, games regulated, and office goals and responsibilities.

Marjorie Esman, executive director, American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana, P.O. Box 56157, New Orleans, LA 70156, (504)522-0628, described the job of the ACLU protecting and defending the constitutional rights of all citizens in Louisiana.

Jane Burgin, legislative liaison, American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana, P.O. Box 1436, Abita Springs, LA (504)782-5000, offered to assist the committee members and staff with upcoming legislation.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Beth Touchet-Morgan, Department of Public Safety and Corrections, youth services, office of juvenile justice, 7919 Independence Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225)287-7900, described the unique mission of OJJ to provide for public safety and the treatment of young people referred to their custody.

Robert Noel, legislative chairman, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 1501 Evangeline, Monroe, LA 71201, (318)388-1700, discussed how the association was streamlined and how factual information will be presented by professional lawyers of the state.

David Tatman, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers/Bail Bonds, 3043 Old Forge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225)767-7670, offered his services for the upcoming session.

State Public Defender James T. Dixon, Jr., Louisiana Public Defender Board, 301 Main Street, Ste. 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225)219-9305, referred the committee members to a handout, included in this file as Exhibit "F", that detailed Louisiana's public defense funding and duties. He introduced the legislative liaison, Dr. Tiffany Simpson, and offered to work with the members on any upcoming legislation.

President Guy Ruggiero, Association of Louisiana Bail Underwriters, P.O. Box 755, Plaquemine, LA 70765-0755, (225)268-2533, described the duties and responsibilities of the bail underwriters in the state.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Mack thanked the presenters and offered to work with everyone in the upcoming session.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Steve E. Pylant offered a motion to adjourn at 11:29 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Sherman Q. Mack
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice