

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2018 Regular Session
May 8, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman
Representative James K. Armes, III
Representative Robert E. Billiot
Representative Terry R. Brown
Representative Patrick Connick
Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan
Representative Franklin J. Foil
Representative Jerry Gisclair
Representative Christopher J. Leopold, vice chairman
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative James H. "Jim" Morris
Representative H. Eugene Reynolds
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative John E. Guinn

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Su King, legislative analyst
Tyler S. McCloud, attorney
Karen Stephens, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Addison Nick, clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 77 by Representative Hensgens

Representative Hensgens presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 77, which urges and requests the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the Department of Natural Resources work with local political subdivisions with statutory responsibility for activities that require state coastal use permits to determine the necessity of state coastal use permits.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Gisclair, Leopold, Magee, Jim Morris, Reynolds, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Terry Brown offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 77 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 77 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Gisclair, Leopold, Magee, Jim Morris, Reynolds, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 433 by Senator Chabert

Senator Chabert presented Senate Bill No. 433, which provides with respect to the membership of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority board.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove the provisions that authorized the speaker of the House and president of the Senate to vote and be counted for purposes of a quorum; and
- (2) Make the bill effective July 1, 2020.

Mr. Chip Klein, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, 1051 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 342-4367, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 433.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Connick, Foil, Gisclair, Leopold, McFarland, Jim Morris, Reynolds, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Gisclair offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 433 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 433 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Foil, Gisclair, Leopold, McFarland, Jim Morris, Reynolds, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 86 by Senator Hewitt

On behalf of Senator Hewitt, Senator Chabert presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 86, which requests the oil and gas industry in Louisiana to support the construction of the Louisiana Geological Survey Coastal Geohazards Atlas by providing access to interpretations from 3-D seismic data.

Mr. Chris McLindon, New Orleans Geological Society, 321 Rosedown Way, Mandeville, LA 70471, (985) 626-7183, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 86. He gave a PowerPoint presentation, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Connick offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 86 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 86 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Gisclair, Leopold, Magee, McFarland, Jim Morris, Reynolds, and White voted yea.

House Resolution No. 169 by Representative Leopold

Representative Leopold presented House Resolution No. 169, which urges and requests the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to timely process applications for projects in southwest Louisiana.

Representative Leopold offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Leopold offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Gisclair, Leopold, Magee, McFarland, Jim Morris, Reynolds, and White voted yea.

Representative Leopold offered amendments to add that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission also timely act on the permit applications. Representative Leopold offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and

0 nays. Representatives Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Gisclair, Leopold, Magee, McFarland, Jim Morris, Reynolds, and White voted yea.

Representative Gisclair offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 169 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 169 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Gisclair, Leopold, Magee, McFarland, Jim Morris, Reynolds, and White 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.

Senate Bill No. 377 by Senator Allain

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 377, which establishes procedures for review of future utility of well sites that have been inactive for more than ten years.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to change the time element in the definition of inactive well from six months to one year, remove "the owner's lessee" from the definition of owner, exempt wells on state waters, and require the mineral owner to be notified that a future utility determination cannot be made. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Foil, Gisclair, Magee, McFarland, Jim Morris, Reynolds, and White voted yea.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to move language in Paragraph (B)(6) to (B)(5) for clarification. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Foil, Gisclair, Magee, McFarland, Jim Morris, Reynolds, and White voted yea.

Representative Jim Morris offered amendments to require the owner to pay the cost of the office of conservation and the operator for the determination of future utility if found. Representative Jim Morris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Magee objected. The secretary called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Billiot, Terry Brown, Connick, Gisclair, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, Reynolds, White, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Coussan and Magee voted nay.

Mr. Blake Canfield, Department of Natural Resources, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2710, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 377.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 377. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 377 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Foil, Gisclair, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, Reynolds, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only and 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Reynolds in the chair.

House Resolution No. 155 by Representative Schexnayder

On behalf of Representative Schexnayder, Representative Bishop presented House Resolution No. 155, which expresses support for the proposed changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act found in the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act and the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017.

Representative Reynolds offered an amendment to make a technical change. Representative Reynolds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Foil, Gisclair, Lyons, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, Reynolds, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 155 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 155 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Gisclair, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, Reynolds, White, and Zeringue 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 83 by Representative Mack

On behalf of Representative Mack, Representative Bishop presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 83, which urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to authorize increased hunting opportunities of feral hogs on Wildlife Management Areas.

Representative Reynolds offered an amendment to make a technical change. Representative Reynolds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Gisclair, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, Reynolds, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 83 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 83 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Gisclair, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, Reynolds, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 524 by Senator Long

On behalf of Senator Long, Representative Bishop presented Senate Bill No. 524, which requires the Sabine River Authority to obtain approval of the Water Resources Commission prior to the sale of water outside the state.

Representative White offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 524 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 524 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Terry Brown, Connick, Coussan, Gisclair, Lyons, McFarland, Miguez, Reynolds, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Stuart J. Bishop
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: