

House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development

Minutes of Meeting
2019 Regular Session
May 30, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Clay Schexnayder, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Clay Schexnayder, chairman
Representative John F. "Andy" Anders, vice chairman
Representative Ryan Joseph Bourriaque
Representative Terry R. Brown
Representative Charles R. Chaney
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Jerry Gisclair
Representative John E. Guinn
Representative Dorothy Sue Hill
Representative H. Bernard LeBas
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative John M. Stefanski

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass
Representative Frank A. Howard
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Steve E. Pylant
Representative Christopher Turner

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amanda Trapp, legislative analyst
Karen Stephens, secretary
Zaren James, division director

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

David Koke, clerk

Wylene Hurst, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 152 by Senator Thompson

On behalf of Senator Thompson, Representative Stefanski presented Senate Bill No. 152, which provides for truth in labeling requirements of agricultural products.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to change terminology in the bill to regulate food products instead of agricultural products, add a definition of "food product", and delete the prohibition on placing a label on a food product that utilizes a term that is the same as or deceptively similar to a term that has been used or defined historically in reference to a specific agricultural product. There being no quorum present at the time, voting on adoption of the amendments was deferred to later in the meeting.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, State Capitol, 3rd Floor, (225) 342-7270, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 152.

Senator Thompson arrived and joined Representative Stefanski and Commissioner Strain for testimony at the witness table.

After a lengthy discussion by the members, Representative Stefanski withdrew the amendments proposed earlier because of questions over removal of the prohibition on using terms that are the same as or deceptively similar to terms historically used in reference to agricultural products. No vote was taken.

Mr. James LeLeux, Louisiana Cattlemen's Association, 4921 I-10 Frontage Road, Port Allen, LA 70767, no phone number provided, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 152.

Mr. Dan Colegrove, Plant Based Foods Association, 2121 K Street, Washington, DC 20037, (202) 329-6242, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 152.

Mr. Tyler Jameson, Impossible Foods, 400 Saginaw Drive, Redwood City, CA 94063, (202) 436-5555, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 152.

Mr. Christopher Bizzell, 249 Richland Avenue, Apartment B, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 443-7484, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 152.

Mr. Ross Thibodeaux, Louisiana Rice Producers, 151 Blackbird Road, Midland, LA 70559, (337) 658-8155, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 152. He provided a handout entitled "USA Rice", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Anders offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 152 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 152 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Bourriaque, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Hill, LeBas, McMahan, and Stefanski voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Clay Schexnayder
House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development

Date adopted: