

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

Minutes of Joint Meeting
2019 - 2020 Interim
October 21, 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 1:06 p.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

HOUSE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Clay Schexnayder, chairman
Representative John F. "Andy" Anders, vice chairman
Representative Terry R. Brown
Representative Charles R. Chaney
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Jerry Gisclair
Representative John E. Guinn
Representative Dorothy Sue Hill
Representative Christopher Turner

HOUSE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Ryan Joseph Bourriaque
Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Frank A. Howard
Representative H. Bernard LeBas
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Steve E. Pylant
Representative John M. Stefanski

SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Francis C. Thompson, chairman
Senator Gerald Long
Senator Barrow Peacock
Senator Neil Riser

SENATE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator James R. Fannin, vice chairman
Senator R.L. "Bret" Allain, II
Senator John R. Smith
Senator Mike Walsworth, ex officio

HOUSE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tyler McCloud, attorney
Su King, senior analyst
Trinicia Bryant, committee administrative assistant

SENATE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Curry Lann, attorney
Candace Shields, senior secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, House sergeant at arms
Alton Crockett, Senate sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION**To consider the approval of the state plan to monitor and regulate the production of industrial hemp**

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on the state plan to monitor and regulate the production of industrial hemp. He provided the committee with a copy of a Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry letter addressed to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records. He gave an overview of the parameters set forth in the 2018 Farm Bill and referenced the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). He also stated that the department is awaiting federal approval.

Commissioner Strain provided additional handouts to the committee as follows:

1. Notice of Intent, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Agriculture Chemistry and Seed Commission, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.
2. Copy of Enrolled Act No. 164 of the 2019 Regular Session, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Senator Thompson asked about permits being issued in January. Commissioner Strain stated that as soon as both committees approved the plan and federal approval is received, the permits will be issued. Senator Thompson inquired on what other states are doing with regard to industrial hemp production. Commissioner Strain responded by stating all states were following a similar pathway by using a uniform set of rules and standards.

Senator Thompson and Commissioner Strain continued to discuss the 2018 Farm Bill, any possible conflicts between state attorneys general, and legislation with regard to scheduled drugs. Their discussion also included concerns regarding land acreage, amount of growers, seed certification, plant processing, plant care, and the number of employees and equipment needed to complete inspections.

Representative Anders and Commissioner Strain discussed machinery and equipment for processing. Senator Long and Commissioner Strain discussed the timeline of federal approval and permit issuance during which it was reiterated that the federal government had 60 days to reject or accept

the plan. Commissioner Strain also stated the department has been assured that in the month of November the federal interim final rule will be promulgated and public.

Commissioner Strain provided an overview of the Notice of Intent, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Agriculture Chemistry and Seed Commission, Title 7, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Amanda LaGroue, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on the proposed plan.

Representative Schexnayder asked about the seed labeling and designee, to which Lester Cannon, director of the Seed Programs Division, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, replied and referenced Section 1321 (E), which provides that any agronomic crop has to have an analysis performed on it for both seed quality, germination, and purity. He also stated that it provides security for Louisiana growers. Representative Schexnayder suggested the language be changed in Section 1321 (E) to be more specific to the designee rather than everyone.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Schexnayder commended and thanked LDAF staff and Senate and House staff for working on the hemp legislation. He also stated that it is a huge accomplishment and provides Louisiana farmers another opportunity.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Schexnayder offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Hill, and Turner voted yea. Senators Thompson, Long, Peacock, and Riser voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date approved:

The committee has acknowledged on _____, that these minutes were prepared in accordance with the rules of the House of Representatives.