

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2019 Regular Session
May 29, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman
Representative Robert E. Billiot
Representative Patrick Connick
Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Franklin J. Foil
Representative Jerry Gisclair
Representative John E. Guinn
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative James H. "Jim" Morris
Representative John M. Stefanski
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative James K. Armes, III
Representative Terry R. Brown
Representative Christopher J. Leopold, vice chairman
Representative Rodney Lyons

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

David Koke, clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Resolution No. 231 by Representative Bishop

Representative Jim Morris in the chair.

Representative Bishop presented House Resolution No. 231, which urges and requests the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality to study the establishment of a voluntary compliance audit program for industries regulated by the department.

Ms. Kathy Wascom, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, 1255 Aberdeen Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 344-4313, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 231.

Representative Jim Morris offered an amendment to change the date on page 2, line 13, from 1992 to 1997. Representative Jim Morris 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, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, Stefanski, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Connick offered amendments to add whether or not a program is needed to the information contained in the written report to the committee. Representative Connick offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Guinn, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, Stefanski, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Guinn offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 231 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 231 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Guinn, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, Stefanski, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93 by Senator Morrish

On behalf of Senator Morrish, Representative Bishop presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93, which requests the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to form a subcommittee to coordinate the state's involvement in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Representative Bishop offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Guinn, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, Stefanski, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Bishop in the chair.

House Resolution No. 233 by Representative Gaines

Representative Gaines presented House Resolution No. 233, which urges and requests the Department of Environmental Quality to study the feasibility of expanding the testing of child-occupied facilities for lead and mercury.

Ms. Kathy Wascom, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, 1255 Aberdeen Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 344-4313, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 233.

Representative Jim Morris offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 233 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 233 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Billiot, Connick, Coussan, Foil, Gisclair, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, Stefanski, 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

On behalf of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, Mr. Cole Garrett, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only about the committee's oversight of the proposed rule providing for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 resident game hunting seasons; 2019-20 general and Wildlife Management Area (WMA) hunting seasons, rules, and regulations; 2020 general and WMA turkey hunting seasons, rules, and regulations; and the 2019-20 migratory bird hunting season, rules, and regulations. He said he would focus his remarks on the commission's proposed rule relative to chronic wasting disease problem and

the related deer urine ban. He provided copies of the May 16, 2019, letter from the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources to the chairmen of the House and Senate committees on Natural Resources, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Tommy Tuma, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-2349, spoke for information only on the commission's proposed rule.

Mr. Randall Meyers, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-2805, spoke for information only on the commission's proposed rule.

Mr. Johnathan Bordelon, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 669 Highway 1192, Marksville, LA 71351, (318) 487-5885, spoke for information only on the commission's proposed rule.

Dr. James LaCour, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 9800, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, (225) 765-0823, spoke for information only on the commission's proposed rule.

Mr. Joe McPherson, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, 2000 Maison Rue, Woodworth, LA 71485, (318) 729-5695, spoke in support of the commission's proposed rule. He provided a handout copied from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website entitled "Prion Diseases", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records. Mr. McPherson, a former state senator, was heard to say, "I am glad to be back with my old colleagues and delighted to see that two-thirds of you are new members that I've never had the opportunity to offend in any way."

Ms. Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, 337 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 344-6707, spoke for information only on the commission's proposed rule. She provided a copy of Resolution No. 5C, 2017 - Ban On The Use Of Deer Urine from the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Ms. Karen Gautreaux, The Nature Conservancy, P.O. Box 4125, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 338-1040, spoke for information only on the commission's proposed rule.

Mr. Phil Robinson, Tink's Deer Scents, 11434 Centerpoint Church Road, Prairie Grove, AR 72753, (479) 422-0470, provided a witness card for information only but spoke in opposition to the commission's proposed rule.

Mr. Davin Henderson, Tink's Deer Scents, 304 Flicker Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80526, (760) 317-7301, provided a witness card for information only but spoke in opposition to the commission's proposed rule.

Mr. Steve Lambeth, Code Blue, 2600 Corporate Drive, Birmingham AL 35080, (251) 236-0206, provided a witness card for information only but spoke in opposition to the commission's proposed rule.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to disapprove the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's proposed rule to prohibit the possession of deer urine while hunting, to which Representative Zeringue objected. Representative Zeringue offered a substitute motion to approve the commission's proposed rule, to which Representative Coussan objected. The secretary called the roll, and the substitute motion to approve the commission's rule failed by a vote of 2 yeas, 9 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Billiot and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, and Stefanski voted nay. Representative Bishop abstained from voting.

The original motion to disapprove the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's proposed rule to prohibit the possession of deer urine while hunting was considered, to which Representative Zeringue objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion to disapprove the commission's rule passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Coussan, DeVillier, Guinn, Magee, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, and Stefanski voted yea. Representatives Billiot, Gisclair, and Zeringue voted nay. Representative Bishop abstained from voting.

Additional handouts were provided to the committee as follows:

1. "CWD Facts and Information", submitted by Mr. Cary Koch, Tink's, Exhibit D, is included in the committee records.
2. Comments provided via email, submitted by Mr. David Moreland, Exhibit E, are included in the committee records.

Representative Bishop stated that staff would prepare a letter to the commission to inform them of the committee's disapproval of the proposed rule.

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

Subsequent to this meeting: The committee's letter to Governor Jon Bel Edwards and the governor's letter of reply, which served to overrule the committee's disapproval, Exhibit F, is included in the committee records.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Bishop thanked the members and staff for their service to the committee during the 2016-2020 term.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: