

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

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
May 7, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jack G. McFarland, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Jack G. McFarland, chairman
Representative Ryan Joseph Bourriaque
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Larry Selders
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc III
Representative Francis C. Thompson, vice chairman
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass
Representative Dustin Miller

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nicholas Cole, attorney
Trinicia Bryant, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Alvin Judson, III , sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 843 by Representative Schexnayder

On behalf of Representative Schexnayder, Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 843, which provides for the regulation of industrial hemp, industrial hemp products, and industrial hemp-derived cannabidiol (CBD) products.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 843.

Representative Thompson offered amendments to:

1. Remove proposed law introductory language contained in the provision creating the Industrial Hemp Advisory Committee relevant to industry background information and a summary of powers and duties granted to the regulatory agencies under Part V and Part VI of present law.
2. Remove the proposed law authorizations granted to the Industrial Hemp Advisory Committee enabling the committee to receive and study information and make recommendations for future legislation relative to the following: (a) the sustainability of the industrial hemp industry; (b) industrial hemp-derived CBD products not approved for sale in the state; and (c) labeling requirements of all industrial hemp-derived CBD products.
3. Add a provision that authorizes the Industrial Hemp Advisory Committee to receive and review information and requests and make recommendations for future legislation relative to the regulation of industrial hemp, industrial hemp products, and industrial hemp-derived CBD products.
4. Make technical changes

Representative Thompson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 843 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 843 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 0 in support, 0 in opposition, 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support, 1 in opposition, and 0 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 392 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 392, which removes a specific function of the office of forestry and certain authority of the Louisiana Forestry Commission related to production and prices of forest tree seedlings grown by the department.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Bill No. 392 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 392 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 0 in opposition, 0 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 393 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 393, which provides for the commissioner's authority to regulate cooperative agreements within the Louisiana Forestry Productivity Program.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 393.

Representative White offered a motion to report House Bill No. 393 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 393 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 0 in opposition, 0 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 394 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 394, which provides relative to the State Forestry Commission's comprehensive management plan for the Alexander State Forest and Indian Creek.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 394.

Representative White offered a motion to report House Bill No. 394 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 394 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 0 in opposition, 0 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 754 by Representative Dustin Miller

On behalf of Representative Dustin Miller, Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 754, which expands the powers and authority of livestock brand inspectors.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 754.

Jesse "Scott" Perry, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Brand Commission, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-3962, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 754.

Representative Wheat offered a motion to report House Bill No. 754 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 754 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 0 in opposition, 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 496 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 496, which provides relative to grain buyers within the agricultural commodity dealer and warehouse law and to the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 496.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 496 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 496 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 0 in opposition, 0 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 426 by Representative Thompson

Representative Thompson presented House Bill No. 426, which provides relative to seed testing and labeling.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 426.

Representative Mincey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 426 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 426 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 0 in opposition, 0 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 618 by Representative Thompson

Representative Thompson presented House Bill No. 618, which provides for the regulation of commercial feed and use of the Feed and Fertilizer Fund.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 618.

Representative Selders offered a motion to report House Bill No. 618 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 618 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 0 in opposition, 0 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 0 in support, 1 in opposition, and 0 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Adoption of Committee Rules

Representative Romero offered a motion to adopt the Rules of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes from the 2019 Regular Session dated April 25, May 2, May 8, May 16, May 22, and May 30 were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Mincey offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

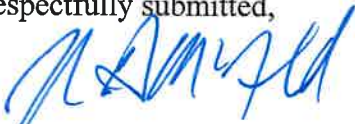
There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Romero offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman Jack G. McFarland
House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development

Date adopted: April 29, 2021