

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

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
May 20, 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 1:08 p.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.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Malinda B. White

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nicholas Cole, attorney
Trinicia Bryant, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 by Representative Kerner

Representative Kerner presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 60, which memorializes Congress to appropriate additional money for increased seafood testing.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, Travis Johnson, McCormick, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 89 by Representative Bryant

Representative Bryant presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 89, which requests a study of the effects of legalizing recreational cannabis usage.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 89. Without objection, action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 89 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, Travis Johnson, McCormick, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 108 by Senator Cathey

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 108, which provides relative to the expansion of the Louisiana Public Livestock Market Charter Law.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 108.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 108 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 108 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, Travis Johnson, McCormick, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, and Wheat 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. 163 by Senator Cathey

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 163, which provides an exemption for certain contractors to the licensure requirements of the Horticulture Commission.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 163.

Mr. Angelo Quaglino, Quaglino Landscape Co., P O Box 1543, Abita Springs, LA 70420, (985) 373-9139, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 163.

Ms. Lisa Loup, Licensed Landscape Contractor, 850 Newman Ave., Jefferson, LA 70121, (504) 913-8272, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 163.

Representative Romero offered amendments to add a cap of 10,000 square feet on the total land size of the repair work. Representative Romero 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, Bourriague, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Bryant offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 163 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 163 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Bourriague, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, 2 in opposition, and 0 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 212 by Senator Cathey

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 212, which provides relative to the membership of the Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 212.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 212 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 212 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

McFarland, Bourriaque, Bryant, Butler, Deshotel, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, and Wheat voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Introduction and comments by Dr. Mike Strain, Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1234, provided an overview of the department and presented a PowerPoint, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records. He also provided an overview of Louisiana's food groups, trade, value of agriculture exports, Louisiana crops, commodity prices, and legislative issues.

Representative McCormick inquired about legislative research completed with regard to the shortage of timber mills. Commissioner Strain stated that research has been completed and the Department of Agriculture has reached out to several companies as well as offered incentives. He also stated timber companies are concerned with the overall business climate in Louisiana.

Commissioner Strain provided additional handouts to the committee as follows:

1. Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Brochure, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.
2. Louisiana Market Bulletin, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Publication, Volume 103, No. 10, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

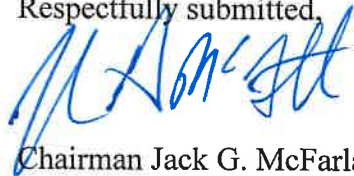
There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman Jack G. McFarland

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

Date adopted: April 29, 2021