

## **House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment**

Minutes of Meeting  
2021 Regular Session  
April 22, 2021

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan, chairman  
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler  
Representative R. Dewith Carrier  
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier  
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier  
Representative Brett F. Geymann  
Representative Timothy P. Kerner  
Representative Mandie Landry  
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.  
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron  
Representative Neil Riser  
Representative Troy D. Romero  
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn  
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Ryan Bourriaque, vice chairman

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tyler Bosworth, legislative analyst  
Robin Stalder, attorney  
Trinicia Bryant, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 549 by Representative McCormick**

Representative McCormick presented House Bill No. 549, which modifies definitions relative to hazardous materials reporting under the Right-to-Know Law.

Mr. Trey Hill, Atmos Energy and Louisiana Gas Association, no address provided, no phone number provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 549.

Mr. John Porter, command technician, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806, (225) 925-6113, spoke for information only on House Bill no. 549.

Mr. James E. Dunegan, Louisiana State Police, 15 Jamestowne Court, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809, (225) 572-6866, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 549.

Mr. Steven Gembrone, Office of Conservation, no address provided, (225) 342-2989, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 549.

Mr. Haywood Martin, Sierra Club Louisiana, 130 Fernhill Avenue, Lafayette, Louisiana 70506, (337) 298-8380, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 549.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 549 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 549 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 9 in support. 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 opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 544 by Representative Hodges**

Representative Hodges presented House Bill No. 544, which extends the period for which the Comite River is exempt from certain provisions of the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act.

Ms. Rebecca Triche, Executive Director, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, 5375 Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806, (225) 344-6707, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 544.

Mr. Phillip Fetterman, Comite River Diversion Canal, 11442 Sheraton Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, spoke in support of House Bill No. 544.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report House Bill No. 544 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 544 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 2 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: 15 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 366 by Representative McFarland**

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 366, which authorizes the exchange of state property in Richland and Morehouse Parishes for property in Ouachita Parish.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to:

1. Authorize the sale of certain properties owned by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry located in Caddo and Sabine Parishes to the City of Shreveport and to the Sabine Parish Fire Protection District No. 1, Wards No. 1 and 2.
2. Make a technical change.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Bill No. 366 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 366 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

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

**House Bill No. 335 by Representative Coussan**

Representative Coussan presented House Bill No. 335, which provides relative to the exchange of certain property between the University of Louisiana System and the City of Lafayette.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 335 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 335 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

**House Bill No. 646 by Representative James**

Representative James presented House Bill No. 646, which provides relative to the dedication of state lands to the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC).

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Bill No. 646 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 646 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

**House Bill No. 627 by Representative Huval**

Representative Huval presented House Bill No. 627, which authorizes the transfer of certain state property in St. Martin Parish.

Mr. Cheston Hill, Office of State Lands, 1201 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, (225) 219-9454, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 627.

Mr. Lawrence "Les" Rosso, Office of State Lands, 1201 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, no phone number provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 627.

Ms. June Guilbeau, 100 Epinal Drive, Lafayette, Louisiana 70507, (337) 280-5342, spoke in support of House Bill No. 627.

Ms. Andree Comeaux, 201 Rue Beauregard, Lafayette, Louisiana 70508, (337) 680-8827, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 627.

Mr. Rocky Laviolette, 144 Oscar Rivette Road, Arnaudville, Louisiana 70512, (337) 254-5331, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 627.

Representative DeVillier offered amendments to:

1. Remove authority for the state to transfer certain property located in St. Martin Parish to Marco Guilbeau.
2. Make technical changes.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Mincey objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Coussan, Carrier, DeVillier, Geymann, Landry, Romero, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representatives Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, and Wheat voted nay.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to authorize the state to transfer an additional tract of land in St. Martin Parish to Andre' Dugas. Representative Coussan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Carrier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 627 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 627 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Carrier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 1 in support and 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. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 558 by Representative Larvadain**

Representative Larvadain presented House Bill No. 558, which authorizes the transfer of certain state property in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Ms. Corinne Blache, Southern University, JS Clark Administration Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70813, (225) 771-4086, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 558.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to add language authorizing a property transfer from the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the commissioner of administration to St. Landry Parish.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Carrier, DeVillier, Geymann, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report House Bill No. 558 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 558 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Carrier, DeVillier, Geymann, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

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

### **House Bill No. 600 by Representative Goudeau**

Representative Goudeau presented House Bill No. 600, which exempts certain property belonging to Lafayette and Lafayette Parish from third-party transfer requirements.

Ms. Dawn Cole, Lafayette Consolidated Government, no address provided, (337) 288-5007, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 600.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 600 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 600 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Carrier, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

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

***Representative DeVillier in the chair.***

### **House Bill No. 72 by Representative Coussan**

Representative Coussan presented House Bill No. 72, which authorizes the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a voluntary environmental self-audit program.

Ms. Lourdes Iturralde, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 604 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (225) 219-3710, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 72.

Mr. Russel Honore, Green Army, 14443 Memorial Tower Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (404) 227-1027, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 72.

***Representative Coussan in the chair.***

Mr. Haywood Martin, Sierra Club Louisiana, 130 Fernhill Avenue, Lafayette, Louisiana 70506, (337) 298-8380, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 72.

Ms. Kathy Wascom, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, 1255 Aberdeen Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 72.

Mr. Edgar Cage, Together Louisiana, 2019 Government Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806, (225) 274-5808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 72.

Mr. Bill Goodell, P. O. Box 52663, Lafayette, Louisiana 70505, (337) 412-2724, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 72.

Ms. Lady Carlson, Together Louisiana, 2019 Government Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806, (318) 880-7373, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 72.

Mr. Chuck Carr Brown, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, no card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 72.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to:

1. Provide the Department of Environmental Quality discretionary authority to conduct public hearings on environmental assessments. Also, allows the public to request such hearings.
2. Make technical changes.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Carrier, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 72 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 72 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 10 in support and 6 in opposition. 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: 2 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 590 by Representative Davis**

On behalf of Representative Davis, Mr. Gary Beard, executive director, Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District, Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, no zip code provided, presented House Bill No. 590, which authorizes the board of the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District to assess fees for capital expenditures and nonpayment.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 590 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 590 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

**House Bill No. 669 by Representative Gary Carter**

Representative Gary Carter presented House Bill No. 669, which authorizes the Department of Environmental Quality to increase annual fees for hazardous waste generators.

Mr. Chuck Carr Brown, secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 4301, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821, (225) 219-3950, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 669.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 669 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 669 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 670 by Representative Gary Carter**

Representative Gary Carter presented House Bill No. 670, which authorizes an increase in certain fees collected by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Mr. Chuck Carr Brown, secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 4301, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821, (225) 219-3950, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 670.

Representative Carrier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 670 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 670 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.



Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 4 by Representative Landry**

Representative Landry presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 4, which provides relative to public notices for minor source facilities.

Mr. Elliot Vega, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 602 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, (225) 219-3180, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

Ms. Theresa Delafosse, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 602 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, (225) 219-3865, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

Ms. Kimberly Terrell, Join For Clean Air, 2426 Chippewa Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, (504) 235-6328, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

Mr. Doug Dietrich, Residents of Irish Channel, 2426 Chippewa Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, (985) 788-3804, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

Ms. Corine de Zeeuw, Join For Clean Air, 2396 Saint Thomas Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, (504) 400-4909, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

Ms. Liz Gottfried, 539 First Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, (650) 483-3482, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

Mr. Lawrence Gottfried, 539 First Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, (650) 743-1105, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

Mr. Justin Vittiton, 2351 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, (504) 452-6452, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

Ms. Robin Davis, Join For Clean Air, 524 E. Browning Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah 84105, (800) 300-7431, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

Representative Coussan offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Coussan offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 4. Without objection, action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 4 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 4 in support and 6 in opposition. 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: 45 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

The minutes from the 2018 – 2019 Interim committee meeting held on September 26, 2018 were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Coussan offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

The minutes from the 2019-2020 Interim committee meeting held on November 19, 2019 were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Coussan offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

The minutes from the 2019 Regular Session committee meetings held on April 24, May 1, May 15, May 21, and May 29 were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Coussan offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

The minutes from the 2020 Regular Session committee meetings held on May 6, May 13, May 19, and May 27 were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Coussan offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

The minutes from the 2020 First Extraordinary Session meeting held on June 10, 2020 were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Coussan offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

The minutes of 2020 Second Extraordinary Session meeting held on October 6, 2020 were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Coussan offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Cheston Hill, Office of State Lands, 1201 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, (225) 219-9454, spoke for information only and provided the committee with a copy of the Land Management Report to be approved, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to approve Site Code: 4-57-008 - LDH site, vacant lot, Abbeville, Vermillion Parish: Vacant lot, 11,794 sq. ft., \$8,000 as of 5.1.2020. Without objection, the site code was approved by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Geyman, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to approve Site Code: 4-49-008 - LWC site, Labor Office Building, Opelousas, St. Landry Parish: 0.51 acres, 5,144 sq. ft. building, \$250,000 as of 2.9.2021. Without objection, the site code was approved by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Geyman, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to approve Site Code: 1-38-003 - LDH site, Belle Chasse, Plaquemines Parish: 19 acres, four buildings totaling 817,621 sq. ft., \$330,000 as of 12.22.2020. Without objection, the site code was approved by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Geyman, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to approve Site Code: 2-59-028 - LDH site, Mental Health Clinic, Bogalusa, Washington Parish: 2.55 acres, 3,346 sq. ft. medical office building, \$110,000 as of 10.13.2020. Without objection, the site code was approved by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Geyman, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to approve Site Code: 4-28-026 - DCFS site, Surrey Street, Lafayette, Lafayette Parish: 3.63 acres, office building and machine shop, \$330,000 as of 12.9.2020. Without objection, the site code was approved by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Geyman, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Kerner offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jean-Paul P. Coussan  
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: