

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
May 12, 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 8:56 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 Ryan Bourriaque, vice 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:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27 by Senator Cortez**

On behalf of Senator Cortez, Representative Coussan presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27, which memorializes Congress to reauthorize the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area program.

Mr. Justin Lemoine, Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, 1051 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, (225) 324-8037, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, 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.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 24 by Senator Foil

Senator Foil presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 24, which requests the Department of Environmental Quality to study the feasibility of providing funding for devices that remediate certain water quality impairments.

Ms. Kelly Hurtado, Louisiana Stormwater Coalition, 16716 Amberwood Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810, (225) 802-3868, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 24.

Ms. Renee Verma, Louisiana Stormwater Coalition, no address provided, (225) 505-4166, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 24.

Mr. Jeff Kuehny, LSU AgCenter/Storm Water Coalition, 4510 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809, (225) 763-3990, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 24.

Representative Mincey offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 24 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 24 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, 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 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 97 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Bill No. 97, which provides for advanced recycling facilities and processes for the conversion of certain recovered materials.

Mr. Wes Robinson, American Chemistry Council, no address provided, no phone number provided, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 97.

Mr. Elliot Vega, assistant secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 602 N. 5th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821, (225) 219-3180, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 97.

Ms. Jane Patton, No Waste Louisiana, 1607 Louisa Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70117, (225) 266-5534, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 97.

Ms. Marion Freistadt, 1539 Adams Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118, (504) 352-2142, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 97.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 97 favorably, to which Representative Landry objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 97 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Bourriaque, Cormier, Geymann, Kerner, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea. Representative Landry voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 6 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: 3 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Representative Schamerhorn stated that he had a potential conflict of interest and recused himself from voting on SB96.

Senate Bill No. 96 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Bill No. 96, which provides for the waste tire program in the Department of Environmental Quality.

Mr. Elliot Vega, Assistant Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 602 N. 5th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821, (225) 219-3180, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 96.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 96 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 96 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 82 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 82, which directs the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to study water drainage issues in Livingston Parish as a result of Interstate 12 median walls.

Representative Mincey offered amendments to:

1. Correct the number of schools cited as affected by the 2016 flood from 18 to 16.
2. Make technical changes.

Representative Mincey 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, Bourriaque, Cormier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Mincey offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 82 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 82 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Cormier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 37 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 37, which urges and requests the Department of Environmental Quality to implement measures to prevent the release and discharge of preproduction plastic from facilities into the waters of the state of Louisiana.

Ms. Krist Trail, executive director, Pontchartrain Conservancy, P.O. Box 6965, Metairie, Louisiana 70009, (504) 836-2215, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 37.

Ms. Marion Freistadt, 1539 Adams Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118, (504) 352-2142, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 37.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to make technical changes. 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, Bourriaque, Cormier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 37 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 37 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Cormier, DeVillier, Geymann, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 4 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: 3 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 73 by Representative Coussan

Representative Coussan presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 73, which urges and requests the collaboration of certain departments with the Louisiana Waterfowl Working Group to improve waterfowl habitats on private, state, and federally owned lands.

Mr. Chad Courville, Louisiana Waterfowl Working Group (LWWG), P. O. Box 93215, Lafayette, Louisiana 70509, (337) 344-4252, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 73.

Mr. Randy Haynie, LWWG, 1465 Ted Dunham Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 73.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to require the Louisiana Waterfowl Working Group to submit a report of its findings annually rather than by March 1, 2022. 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, Butler, Cormier, DeVillier, Geymann, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 73 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 73 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier,

Cormier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 551 by Representative Cormier

Representative Cormier presented House Bill No. 551, which provides relative to the menhaden season.

Representative Cormier offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 551. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 551 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 535 by Representative Orgeron

Representative Orgeron presented House Bill No. 535, which provides relative to the geographic location for the taking of menhaden.

Mr. David Cresson, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), 12241 Industriplex Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809, no phone number provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 535.

Representative Bryan Fontenot, District 55, 406 W. 3rd Street, Suite 107, Thibodaux, Louisiana 70301, (985) 447-0999, spoke in support of House Bill No. 535.

Mr. Craig Matherne, CCA/Premier Charters, 224 Laurel Court, Luling, Louisiana 70070, (504) 416-5572, spoke in support of House Bill No. 535.

Mr. Rudy Valenciano, 6138 Mourning Dove Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70817, (225) 333-0878, spoke in support of House Bill No. 535.

Mr. Chris Macaluso, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation, 12442 Schlayer Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816, (225) 802-4048, spoke in support of House Bill No. 535.

Mr. Chad Courville, P.O. Box 93215, Lafayette, Louisiana 70509, (337) 344-4252, spoke in support of House Bill No. 535.

Mr. Chris Brupbacher, #30 Tern Street, no city and state provided, no zip code provided, (504) 520-0046, spoke in support of House Bill No. 535.

Mr. Benjamin Graham, 425 Leeward Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, (225) 802-6619, spoke in support of House Bill No. 535.

Mr. David Yates, Westbank Fisheries, 138 Percy Road, Sunset, Louisiana 70584, (337) 764-2765, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 535.

Mr. Ben Landry, Omega Protein/Ocean Harvesters, no address provided, (918) 688-6193, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 535.

Mr. Shane Treadaway, Westbank Fishing, no address provided, (504) 620-4404, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 535.

Mr. Charles Rice, Westbank, 140 Tyler Christian Drive, Houma, Louisiana 70360, (985) 637-3523, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 535.

Ms. Blaine Braddock, Westbank/Daybrook, 103 Hidden Cove Court, Belle Chasse, Louisiana 70037, (504) 458-7007, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 535.

Mr. William Wallace, 600 Port of New Orleans Place, Apt. 6D, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, (504) 312-1417, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 535.

Mr. Cole Garrett, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 535.

Mr. Patrick Banks, LDWF, no address provided, no phone number provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 535.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 535 favorably, to which Representative Cormier objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 535 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Carrier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea. Representatives Bourriague, Butler, Cormier, and Landry voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 18 in support and 20 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: 509 in support and 8 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Cormier offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: