

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
March 23, 2022

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 9:31 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 Adrian Fisher
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
Brandy Phillips, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 762 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 762, which creates and provides for the Louisiana Outdoor Forever Program. He provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Riser offered amendments to:

- (1) Change the name of the Louisiana Outdoor Forever Program and the associated fund to the Louisiana Outdoors Forever Program and the Louisiana Outdoors Forever Fund, respectively.
- (2) Change the program listed under transfer provisions applicable to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to the two governing boards; specifically, the project selection board and the technical advisory board.

Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Coussan abstained.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Bill No. 762 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 762 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Coussan abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 165 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 165, which provides relative to lease sales for wind energy.

Representative Orgeron, a coauthor, spoke in support of House Bill No. 165 and explained in detail what the bill would accomplish.

Secretary Tom Harris, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, no address provided, (225) 278-8868, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 165.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 165 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 165 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Coussan abstained.

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

House Bill No. 525 by Representative McCormick

Representative McCormick presented House Bill No. 525, which provides for the transfer of certain state property in Caddo Parish.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 525 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 525 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Coussan abstained.

House Bill No. 530 by Representative Miguez

Representative Miguez presented House Bill No. 530, which provides relative to the sale of certain state property in Iberia and St. Martin Parish.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Bill No. 530 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 530 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea. Representative Coussan abstained.

House Bill No. 753 by Representative Miguez

Representative Miguez presented House Bill No. 753, which provides relative to the sale of certain state property in Iberia Parish.

Mr. Cheston Hill, Division of Administration, office of state lands, no address provided, (225) 219-9454, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 753.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 753 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 753 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea. Representative Coussan abstained.

House Bill No. 691 by Representative Emerson

Representative Emerson presented House Bill No. 691, which authorizes the exchange of certain state property in St. Martin Parish.

Mr. Rocky Laviolette, Laviolette Assets, 144 Oscar Rivet Road, no city, state, or zip code provided, (337) 254-4553, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 691.

Mr. Cheston, Division of Administration, office of state lands, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 691.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Bill No. 691 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 691 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea. Representative Coussan abstained.

House Bill No. 501 by Representative DuBuisson

Representative DuBuisson presented House Bill No. 501, which provides for sale of certain state property in St. Tammany Parish.

Mr. Dannie Garrett, St. Tammany Parish School Board, 635 Main Street #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, spoke in support of House Bill No. 501.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 501 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 501 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea. Representative Coussan abstained.

House Bill No. 267 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 267, which provides relative to the existing right of a storage facility operator to expropriate property for the purpose of drilling through a storage facility in Caldwell Parish.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 267 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 267 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea. Representative Coussan abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 217 by Representative Bourriaque

Representative Bourriaque presented House Bill No. 217, which provides relative to the transfer of certain state property in Cameron Parish.

Representative Bourriaque offered amendments to:

- (1) Correct language in the property description for the parcel of land referenced as Tract 2-1 to replace the word "East" with "West" so that it now reads, in pertinent part, Section 3, Township 15 South, Range 11 West, Cameron Parish, Louisiana.
- (2) Change the date of the survey of Tract 2-1 from February 21, 2022 to February 2022.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea. Representative Coussan abstained.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 217 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 217 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea. Representative Coussan abstained.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The minutes from the 2021 Regular Session dated April 22, April 28, May 5, May 12, May 18, and May 26 were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Wheat offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea. Representative Coussan abstained.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: