

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 19, 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 9:29 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 R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Adrian Fisher
Representative Brett F. Geymann
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
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 Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative Mandie Landry

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**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 12 by Senator Hewitt**

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 12, which requests halt in actions that cancel or delay offshore oil and natural gas lease sales.

Mr. Charles Barjon, II, Sierra Club Delta Chapter, 500 Jesse Stone Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, (562) 922-9964, spoke in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 12.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 12 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 12 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 55, by Representative Robert Owen

Representative Coussan announced that action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 55, which provides relative to charter fishing guides and commercial fishing, was voluntarily deferred.

Senate Bill No. 245 by Senator Allain

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 245, which provides for the Orphan Well Program.

Mr. Blake Canfield, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, 617 North Third Street, 12th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 342-3024, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 245.

Mr. Charles Barjon, II, Sierra Club Delta Chapter, 500 Jesse Stone Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, (562) 922-9964, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 245.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 245 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 245 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 38 by Senator Hensgens

On behalf of Senator Hensgens, Mr. Neil Abramson, 701 Poydras, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 566-1311, presented Senate Bill No. 38, which provides for the risk charge against nonparticipating owners in drilling units.

Mr. Pat Ottinger, 1313 West Pinhook Road, no city or state provided, no phone number provided, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 38.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 38 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 38 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, 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. 91 by Senator Hensgens

On behalf of Senator Hensgens, Representative Coussan presented Senate Bill No. 91, which re-creates the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority Board.

Mr. Chip Kline, CPRA, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-7669, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 91.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 91 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 91 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 446 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 446, which authorizes the Red River, Atchafalaya, and Bayou Beouf Levee District to exchange property in Avoyelles Parish.

Representative Bourriague offered a motion to report House Bill No. 446 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 446 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriague, Carrier, Cormier, Kerner, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, 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. 270 by Senator Womack

On behalf of Senator Womack, Representative Riser presented Senate Bill No. 270, which provides relative to retaining and removing invasive species of fish.

Representative Bourriague offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 270 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 270 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriague, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Romero, Schamerhorn, 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.

House Bill No. 773 by Representative Glover

Representative Glover presented House Bill No. 773, which authorizes the transfer of certain state property in Caddo Parish. He provided handouts, Exhibit A, a letter of support from the Mayor of the City of Shreveport, and Exhibit B, a letter of support from the President of Highland Neighborhood Association, which are included in the committee records.

Mr. Tom Arceneaux, concerned citizen, Shreveport Implementation and Redevelopment Authority, 615 Jordan Street, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 222-6493, spoke in support of House Bill No. 773.

Representative Riser offered amendments to:

- (1) Add authority for the commissioner of administration to exchange any interest in the described property in addition to the other methods by which the property interests may be transferred.
- (2) Require the commissioner of administration to make a good faith effort to effectuate a property transfer as contemplated by the Act.
- (3) Require the commissioner of administration to allow reasonable access to the property by the Shreveport Implementation and Redevelopment Authority or

prospective developers for the purposes of performing due diligence and planning prior to the transfer of any interest to the property and no later than the date by which the state has finalized plans to relocate the current occupants of the described property.

- (4) Provide that access to the property by the Shreveport Implementation and Redevelopment Authority or prospective developers for these purposes may not interfere with the current occupants' use of the property.
- (5) Authorize the commissioner of administration to enter into any preliminary agreements that may be necessary to allow the access required for due diligence and planning purposes.
- (6) Make technical changes.

Representative Riser 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, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Wheat offered amendments to add an additional property description for a parking lot adjacent to the property described in the original bill.

Representative Wheat 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, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Bill No. 773 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 773 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 686 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Bill No. 686, which provides relative to management of the Amite River Basin.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to:

- (1) Change the board composition from 13 to 15 in order to add two additional nonvoting technical advisors.
- (2) Add the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority board and the president of the Pontchartrain Levee District Board of Commissioners to the board of commissioners for the Amite River Drainage and Conservation District to serve in nonvoting advisory roles.
- (3) Add that priority will be given to nominees that reside in the district or any parish within it when considering nominees to the board.
- (4) Change the number of years of professional experience required to be an at large commissioner from 10 years to 7 years.
- (5) Add project managers and certified floodplain managers to the list of professions from which at large commissioners can be chosen.
- (6) Add the Pontchartrain Levee District as one of the entities that can advise the board and provide technical assistance regarding drainage, flooding, and flood management.
- (7) Require the board to promulgate rules relative to the creation and management of a wetland mitigation bank.
- (8) Add a requirement that the board place emphasis on plans for projects that include project inventories, implementation plans, and strategies to maximize the use of innovative funding strategies.
- (9) Require the board to report annually to the parish presidents, parish governing authorities representing the parishes making up the district, and to the legislature.
- (10) Require each parish within the district to submit an initial hazard mitigation plan by January 1, 2023, and to submit the same to the board every five years thereafter. Further require the board to participate and assist in the development of each parish hazard mitigation plan.
- (11) Allow for the transfer or donation of funds from the parishes or political subdivisions within the district to the board and allow the board to accept such transfers and donations.
- (12) Prohibit the board from making expenditures or otherwise obligating unrestricted funds until January 1st following enactment of this Act.

(13) Make technical changes.

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, Bourriague, Carrier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Chip Kline, CPRA, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 342-7669, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 686.

Representative Mincey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 686 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 686 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriague, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriague, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted:

