

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 23, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Joseph A. Marino, III, chairman of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Joseph A. Marino, III, chairman
Representative Tony Bacala, vice chairman
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr.
Representative Jonathan Goudeau, I
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Nicholas Muscarello, Jr.
Representative Alan Seabaugh
Representative Debbie Villio

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert A. Singletary, attorney
Zachary Gonzalez, attorney
Stephanie Weinman, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Michael McCain, clerk
Allie Eaves, clerk
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III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Resolution No. 143 by Representative Marcelle**

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Resolution No. 143, which requests the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice to study and make recommendations concerning the policies and procedures of high-speed pursuits by law enforcement officers. Without objection, action on House Resolution No. 143 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Edmonston, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Marcelle, and Villio voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 65 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 65, which requests a study of the current system of reporting deaths in correctional institutions.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical corrections;
- (2) Request the office of public health of the La. Dept. of Health to work in consultation with certain entities;
- (3) Remove Voice of the Experienced, Loyola University of New Orleans College of Law, the La. Stop Solitary Coalition, the Justice Collaborative, LLC, and the Formerly Incarcerated Transitions Clinic from the resolution; and
- (4) Provide for a report to the legislature no later than Feb. 1, 2024.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Edmonston, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Marcelle, Muscarello, and Villio voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

Merrilee Montgomery, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 N. 6th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (229) 603-2706, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 65.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 65 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 65 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Edmonston, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Marcelle, Muscarello, and Villio voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

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

House Bill No. 26 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 26, which provides relative to the voting requirements of the Board of Pardons.

Checo Yancy, Voice of the Experienced, 251 Florida St., #201, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 270-5245, spoke in support of House Bill No. 26.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 26. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 26 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Bryant, Edmonston, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Marcelle, Muscarello, and Villio voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 102 by Representative Jordan

Representative Jordan presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 102, which requests the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to provide optional identification tags to inmates assigned to work in state buildings.

Representative Bryant offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 102 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 102 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Bryant, Edmonston, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Marcelle, Muscarello, and Villio voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

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. 192 by Senator Smith

On behalf of the author, Ronnie Johns, Louisiana Gaming Control Board, 7901 Independence Blvd.,

Bldg.. A., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, presented Senate Bill No. 192, which provides relative to the Louisiana Gaming Control Board.

On behalf of the author, Representative Marino offered an amendment to authorize a new entity provided for in present law to apply for a sports wagering license within two years of the board's acceptance of the surrender of a license. Representative Marino offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Bryant, Edmonston, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Muscarello, and Villio voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 192 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 192 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Bryant, Edmonston, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Muscarello, and Villio voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

The committee stood at ease at 9:34 a.m. The committee reconvened at 9:38 a.m.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 87 by Representative Charles Owen

Representative Charles Owen presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 87, which requests the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to provide information on inmate release dates.

At the request of the author, Representative Marino offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 87. Without objection, action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 87 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Bryant, Edmonston, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Muscarello, Seabaugh, and Villio voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

Senate Bill No. 54 by Senator Morris

Senator Morris presented Senate Bill No. 54, which repeals provisions relative to police officers making arrests for certain misdemeanors and felonies.

Sarah Whittington, Justice and Accountability Center, 4035 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 322-4050, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 54.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 54 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 54 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Edmonston, Fontenot, Garofalo, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Muscarello, and Seabaugh voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 7 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 130 by Senator Morris

Senator Morris presented Senate Bill No. 130, which authorizes retired law enforcement officers and retired elected law enforcement department heads to carry concealed firearms if POST certified at the time of retirement.

Michael Ranatza, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 343-8402, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 130.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 130 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 130 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Bryant, Edmonston, Fontenot, Garofalo, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Muscarello, and Seabaugh voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 175 by Senator Stine

Senator Stine presented Senate Bill No. 175, which criminalizes deepfakes involving minors and defines the rights to digital image and likeness.

On behalf of the author, Representative Marino offered an amendment to make technical changes. Representative Marino offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Bryant, Edmonston, Garofalo, Goudeau, Hodges, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Muscarello, and Seabaugh voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 175 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 175 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Bryant, Edmonston, Garofalo, Goudeau, Hodges, Knox, LaFleur, Muscarello, and Seabaugh voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 104 by Representative Landry

Representative Landry presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 104, which authorizes and directs the legislative auditor to conduct performance audits of Louisiana's state and local correctional facilities.

Anne Jayes, Louisiana Public Health Institute, 400 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 239-2424, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 104.

On behalf of the author, Representative Marino offered an amendment to provide for the performance audits to be conducted every three years rather than on a semi-annual basis. Representative Marino offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Bryant, Edmonston, Garofalo, Goudeau, Hodges, Knox, LaFleur, and Muscarello voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 104 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 104 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bacala, Bryant, Edmonston, Garofalo, Goudeau, Hodges, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, and Muscarello voted yea. Representative Marino abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Joseph A. Marino, III
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice