

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
March 21, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Debbie Villio, chair
Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur, vice chair
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Lauren Ventrella
Representative Joy Walters
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zachary Gonzalez, attorney
Stephanie Weinman, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Michael McCain, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 637 by Representative Bryant

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 637, which provides relative to charitable gaming. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 637 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 92 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 92, which designates Act No. 460 of the 2023 Regular Session as "The Remy Mann Act".

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 92 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 92 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 204 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 204, which adds substances to the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered an amendment to make technical changes relative to the spelling of the substances "2',5'-dimethoxyfentanyl" and "alpha'-methyl butyryl fentanyl". Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered an amendment to add the substance "2-Methyl AP-237 (1-(2-methyl-4-(3-phenylprop-2-en-1-yl)piperazin-1-yl)butan-1-one)" to Schedule I of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Joe Fontenot, executive director, Louisiana Board of Pharmacy, 3388 Brentwood Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 204.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 204 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 204 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 726 by Representative Adams

Representative Adams presented House Bill No. 726, which provides for a local option gaming election on the operation of video draw poker devices in East Feliciana Parish.

Darriell Hinton, East Feliciana Drug and Alcohol Awareness Council, P.O. Box 612, Clinton, LA 70722, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 726.

Alton Ashy, Louisiana Video Gaming Association, 218 Laurel St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 726.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report House Bill No. 726 favorably. Representative Fontenot offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 726, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Villio, Boyer, Fontenot, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, and Walters voted nay.

The administrative assistant called the roll on the original motion by Representative Walters to report House Bill No. 726 favorably, to which Representative Fontenot objected, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, and Walters voted yea. Representatives Villio, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Ventrella, and Wiley voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 64 by Representative Stagni

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 64, which prohibits the retail sale of nitrous oxide.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes;
- (2) Provide that the possession, use, or sale of nitrous oxide for automotive purposes is not an unlawful use of nitrous oxide;

- (3) Add that production or manufacture of any substance specified in present law shall constitute a violation of present law;
- (4) Expand the list of prohibited actors to include an entity, business, or corporation;
- (5) Permit the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control to conduct any investigation as necessary to regulate and enforce the provisions of present law;
- (6) Clarify that a law enforcement agency of the state or its political subdivisions with appropriate jurisdiction is not prohibited from enforcing the provisions of present law; and
- (7) Require the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control to promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to provide for the regulation and enforcement of present law.

Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered an amendment to clarify that the term of imprisonment is with or without hard labor. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Greg Combel, 1704 Stanford Ave., Metairie, LA 70003, spoke in support of House Bill No. 64.

Deano Bonano, Jefferson Parish councilman, 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Jefferson, LA 70123, spoke in support of House Bill No. 64.

Samantha McCann, representing Jenna Combel, 3545 Delaware Ave., Kenner, LA 70065, spoke in support of House Bill No. 64.

Ashley Broha, 10251 Glen Arbor Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 64.

Tom Bromley, 7942 Wrenwood Blvd., Unit F, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 64.

Virginia Bromley, 7942 Wrenwood Blvd., Apt. F, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 64.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 64 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 64 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Vice Chair LaFleur in the chair.

House Bill No. 167 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 167, which provides relative to penalties for unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system.

On behalf of the author, Representative Bacala offered an amendment to add the governor's mansion as a prohibited location relative to the unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted yea.

Brian Landry, Louisiana Chemical Association, 301 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 167.

Captain Bryan Lee, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 167.

Representative Moore offered a motion to report House Bill No. 167 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 167 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 175 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 175, which provides relative to the unlawful posting of criminal activity for notoriety and publicity.

Representative Adams offered an amendment to make technical changes. Representative Adams offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted

by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 175 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 175 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 26 by Representative Bamburg

Representative Bamburg presented House Bill No. 26, which provides relative to the jury commission for Red River Parish.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 26 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 26 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley 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. 74 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 74, which provides relative to the jury commission for the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, and St. James.

Representative Adams offered a motion to report House Bill No. 74 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 74 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Chair Villio in the chair.

House Bill No. 178 by Representative Miller

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 178, which provides relative to the regulation of charitable gaming. Without objection,

action on House Bill No. 178 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 507 by Representative Zeringue

On behalf of the author, Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 507, which provides relative to the unlawful entry of a critical infrastructure.

Representative Fontenot offered an amendment to restructure the provisions of proposed law to clarify when certain penalties are applicable. Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Patrick Riley, Louisiana Chemical Association, 301 Main St., Ste. 2040, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 507.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 507 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 507 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 450 by Representative Schamerhorn

Representative Schamerhorn presented House Bill No. 450, which re-creates the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

Captain Bryan Lee, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 450.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 450 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 450 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 309 by Representative Cox

Representative Cox presented House Bill No. 309, which provides with respect to compensation of personnel running charitable gaming events.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 309 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 309 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Vice Chair LaFleur in the chair.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 1, which provides relative to the training of members of the judiciary with respect to diminution of sentence and release dates of offenders and the development of training curriculum relative to parole eligibility.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice