

## House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
April 4, 2024

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 10:11 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:**

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms  
Michael McCain, clerk

### III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

#### **House Bill No. 165 by Representative Boyd**

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 165, which provides relative to marijuana paraphernalia.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 165 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 165 was reported favorably 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: 17 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 165 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

#### **House Bill No. 166 by Representative Boyd**

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 166, which provides relative to penalties for a person convicted of a sex offense.

Bruce Reilly, Voice of the Experienced, 4930 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 166.

Representative Bacala offered an amendment to authorize, rather than require, a vasectomy procedure for any person who is convicted of a sex offense. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 166 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 166 was reported with amendments 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: 14 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 166 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

**House Bill No. 779 by Representative Boyd**

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 779, which provides relative to the definition of "commercial sexual activity" within the crime of trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

Keith Lampkin, Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, 619 S. White St., New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 779, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Michelle Jones, Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, 619 S. White St., New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 779.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 779 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 779 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: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 22 by Representative Marcelle**

Representative Marcelle presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 22, which directs the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to establish family-sensitive policies for all correctional facilities under the jurisdiction of the department.

Dominique Johnson, Daughters Beyond Incarceration, 2129 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd., Bldg. C, New Orleans, LA 70113, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 22.

Natalie LaBorde, Department of Corrections, 504 Mayflower St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 22.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 S. Acadian Thwy., Ste. 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 22.

Emiko Stroud, Daughters Beyond Incarceration, 2129 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd., Bldg. C, New Orleans, LA 70113, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 22.

Hannah Byrne, Daughters Beyond Incarceration, 2129 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd., Bldg. C, New Orleans, LA 70113, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 22.

Representative Horton offered an amendment to authorize, rather than require, the Department of

Public Safety and Corrections to establish family-sensitive policies for all correctional facilities under the jurisdiction of the department. Representative Horton 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, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Israel Heller, Daughters Beyond Incarceration, 2129 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd., Bldg. C, New Orleans, LA 70113, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 22.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 22 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 22 was reported with amendments 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: 15 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 by Representative Marcelle**

Representative Marcelle presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 24, which directs the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to permit incarcerated parents to virtually attend certain ceremonies involving their children.

Natalie LaBorde, Department of Corrections, 504 Mayflower St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 24.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to encourage, rather than direct, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to establish a policy to permit incarcerated parents at penal or correctional facilities under its jurisdiction to virtually attend award ceremonies, parent teacher conferences, and graduation commencement exercises at the request of the child. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment, to which Representative Walters objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Moore, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Adams, Knox, LaFleur, and Walters voted nay.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 was reported with amendments 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: 19 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

*Vice Chair LaFleur in the chair.*

**House Bill No. 734 by Representative Villio**

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 734, which provides relative to victim notification.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to specify that any appointment made by certain individuals who seek to contact the victim's family has to be requested, approved, and arranged through a victim service coordinator appointed by the prosecuting agency and the victim's family. Representative Villio 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.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to change the term "defendant" to "offender" throughout proposed law. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Michael Ranatza, executive director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 734.

Tracey Ewing Barbera, East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office, 222 Saint Louis St., 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 734.

Denny LeBoeuf, ACLU, 13 Saint John Ct., New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 734.

Samantha Kennedy, Promise of Justice Initiative, 1024 Elysian Fields Ave., New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 734.

Alison McCrary, 4477 Baccich St., New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 734.

Britain Forsyth, 2819 Pine St., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 734.

Anna Lellelid, 310 Lavoisier St., Gretna, LA, 70053, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 734.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 734 with amendments, to which Representative Walters objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 734 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea. Representative Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 6 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 206 by Representative Villio**

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 206, which provides relative to the commitment of certain persons who are found not guilty by reason of insanity.

Representative Villio offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes;
- (2) Change the terminology from "insanity acquittee" to "committed person" throughout proposed law;
- (3) Change the terminology from "continued commitment" to "active supervised release" throughout proposed law;
- (4) Change the type of offense that a committed person has to be found not guilty by reason of insanity of in order to be considered for active supervised release from any crime that is both a crime of violence and a sex offense to any crime that is either a crime of violence or a sex offense;
- (5) Remove any crime of violence punishable by a maximum sentence of twenty years imprisonment or more as the type of offense that a committed person has to be found not guilty by reason of insanity of in order to be considered for active supervised release;
- (6) Require the court, after consideration of any report filed pursuant to present law to order the committed person to be placed on active supervised release with any special conditions recommended to the court as well as any conditions of probation provided in present law;
- (7) Change the maximum time period for active supervised release from one year to three years and provide that such time period may be extended in increments of three years rather than one year;
- (8) Provide for extension of the active supervised release period upon motion of the district attorney and proof that the committed person still satisfies the criteria for active supervised release under proposed law;
- (9) Provide that a committed person who is on active supervised release shall not be

subject to a probation period that is longer than the maximum term he would have received if he had been convicted of the offense;

- (10) Require the clerk of court to deliver a certificate to the committed person setting forth the conditions of his release when the committed person is placed on active supervised release and requires the committed person to agree in writing to the conditions of his release;
- (11) Provide for the arrest and detainment of a committed person pursuant to present law when the committed person has violated or is suspected of violating the conditions of his release; and
- (12) Clarify that nothing in proposed law shall be construed as abrogating or negating any other provision of present law relative to the commitment of insanity acquittees or relative to the continued commitment, discharge, or conditional.

Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Darren Allemand, Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office, 200 Derbigny St., Gretna, LA 70053, spoke in support of House Bill No. 206.

Bruce Reilly, Voice of the Experienced, 4930 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 206.

Professor Katherine Mattes, 6329 Freret St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 206.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 206 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 206 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, 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 and 8 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 206 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

*Chair Villio in the chair.*

**House Resolution No. 12 by Representative Freeman**

Representative Freeman presented House Resolution No. 12, which continues the task force created by House Resolution No. 174 of the 2023 Regular Session to study the educational programs in the prisons and jails of this state.

Representative Adams offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 12 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 12 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: 15 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 436 by Representative Freeman**

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 436, which provides relative to intentional exposure to HIV.

Dr. Lynn Besch, 8008 Spruce St., New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in support of House Bill No. 436.

Dr. Jennifer Avegno, New Orleans Health Department, 1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 436, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Robert Suttle, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 436.

Kathleen Barrios Heap, East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office, 222 Saint Louis St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 436.

Darren Allemand, Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office, 200 Derbigny St., Gretna, LA 70053, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 436.

At the request of the author, Representative Bacala offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 436. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 436 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.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 24 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 436 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.



**House Bill No. 705 by Representative Jordan**

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 705, which provides relative to payphones and communications for incarcerated individuals. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 705 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. 355 by Representative Galle**

Representative Galle presented House Bill No. 355, which amends provisions of law regarding justification in the use of force or violence.

Paul Deckert, Center for Security Policy, 211 Filmore Ave., New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in support of House Bill No. 355.

Representative Knox offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 355, to which Representative Horton objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Adams, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted yea. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, and Wiley voted nay.

Bruce Reilly, Voice of the Experienced, 4930 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 355.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 355. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 355 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.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 355 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

**House Bill No. 735 by Representative Kerner**

Representative Kerner presented House Bill No. 735, which provides relative to penalties for distribution or possession with intent to distribute certain controlled dangerous substances.

Bruce Reilly, Voice of the Experienced, 4930 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 735.

Sarah Whittington, Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana, 4035 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 735.

At the request of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 735. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 735 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.

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

#### **House Bill No. 125 by Representative Bayham**

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 125, which provides relative to the penalties for battery of a bus operator. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 125 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. 127 by Representative Bayham**

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 127, which provides relative to the penalties for the crime of simple obstruction of a highway of commerce. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 127 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. 816 by Representative Wilford Carter**

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 816, which provides relative to residential contractor fraud. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 816 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. 852 by Representative Mandie Landry**

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 852, which increases the penalties for malfeasance in office. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 852 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.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio  
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice