

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 7, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 9:41 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 Lauren Ventrella
Representative Joy Walters
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zachary Gonzalez, attorney
Stephanie Weinman, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Michael McCain, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 293 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 293, which provides for the definition of abortion.

Erica Inzina, Louisiana Right to Life, 200 Allen Toussaint Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 293.

Mark Campo, Definition of Life, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 293.

Dr. Neelima Sukhavasi, 13612 Brook Point Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 293.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report House Bill No. 293 favorably, to which Representative Horton objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Adams, Knox, and Walters voted yea. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, and Wiley voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 48 in support and 18 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 293 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 63 by Representative Newell

Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 63, which amends definitions relative to the crime of abortion.

On behalf of Representative Newell, Representative Walters offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes;
- (2) Relative to what is not an abortion, add the performance of a treatment necessary in good faith medical judgment or reasonable medical judgment to prevent the death or substantial risk of death to the pregnant woman due to a physical condition, or to prevent the serious, permanent impairment of a life-sustaining organ of a pregnant woman;
- (3) Restore present law relative to the reasonable medical efforts of a physician under the circumstances to preserve both the life of the mother and the life of her unborn child in a manner consistent with reasonable medical practice; and

- (4) Remove provisions of proposed law from the present law term "contraceptive".

Representative Walters offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Dr. Neelima Sukhavasi, 13612 Brook Point Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 63.

Anne Jayes, Louisiana Public Health Institute, 400 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in support of House Bill No. 63.

Benjamin O. Flaxenburg, attorney, 904 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 63.

Angela Adkins, 10,000 Women Louisiana, 650 N. Sixth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 63.

Alex Moody, Lift Louisiana, 3157 Gentilly Blvd. #2327, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in support of House Bill No. 63.

Melissa Flournoy, 10,000 Women, 650 N. Sixth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 63.

Dr. Kim Hardey, 401 Edgehill Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 63.

Ben Clapper, Louisiana Right to Life, 200 Allen Toussaint Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 63.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 63.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report House Bill No. 63 with amendments, to which Representative Horton objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Adams, Knox, LaFleur, and Walters voted yea. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Ventrella, and Wiley voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 43 in support and 13 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 63 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 56 by Representative Newell

Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 56, which provides relative to exceptions to abortion.

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

- (1) Make technical changes;
- (2) Include the results of an obstetric ultrasound test within the exception for a medical procedure that treats a patient who has, in good faith medical judgment and certified in writing in the woman's medical record been diagnosed with a complication that renders the pregnancy nonviable;
- (3) Define the term "nonviable"; and
- (4) Authorize the Louisiana State Law Institute to renumber the terms in present law to ensure they are in alphabetical order.

Representative Walters offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Dr. Neelima Sukhavasi, 13612 Brook Point Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Destiny Hamilton, 8949 Metairie Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Frankie Robertson, Reproductive Health Impact, 14335 Thorn Briar Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Dr. Jennifer Avegno, New Orleans Health Department, 1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Haley Beavers Khoury, 2219 Delachaise St., New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Elizabeth Soychak, 10,000 Women, 3043 Ponce de Leon St., New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Benjamin Flaxenburg, 409 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Hannah Udell, 10,000 Women, 3711 Danneel St., New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Angela Adkins, 10,000 Women Louisiana, 650 N. Sixth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Julie Schwam Harris, Legislative Agenda for Women, 1208 Pine St., New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in support of House Bill No. 56.

Dr. Kim Hardey, 401 Edgehill Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 56.

Ben Clapper, Louisiana Right to Life, 200 Allen Toussaint Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 56.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report House Bill No. 56 with amendments, to which Representative Bacala objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, and Walters voted yea. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Ventrella, and Wiley voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 43 in support and 19 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 56 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

The committee stood at east at 12:14 p.m. The committee reconvened at 12:19 p.m.

House Bill No. 164 by Representative Boyd

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 164 from a meeting held on April 30, 2024. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 164.

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 164, which provides for exceptions to the abortion laws of this state relative to rape and incest.

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

- (1) Make technical changes; and

- (2) Specify that "abortion" is not the termination of a pregnancy that is the result of an act that constitutes any of the following offenses when the victim is under 17 years of age:
- (a) Rape;
 - (b) First degree rape;
 - (c) Second degree rape;
 - (d) Third degree rape;
 - (e) Molestation of a juvenile or a person with a physical or mental disability;
 - (f) Crime against nature; and
 - (g) Aggravated crime against nature.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Suzanne Welsch, 5042 Mimosa St., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 164.

Dr. Neelima Sukhavasi, 13612 Brook Point Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 164.

Jesse Manley, 2726 Leonidas St., New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in support of House Bill No. 164.

Audrey Wascome, 9503 Cabernet Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in support of House Bill No. 164.

Julie Schwam Harris, Legislative Agenda for Women, 1208 Pine St., New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in support of House Bill No. 164.

Sadi Summerlin, Pro Choice With Heart - Gulf Coast, 30516 Smith Ferry Rd., Westlake, LA 70669, spoke in support of House Bill No. 164.

Corhonda Corley, Louisiana Families of Infants with Disabilities, 8815 Wilmore Dr., Zachary, LA 70791, spoke in support of House Bill No. 164.

Dr. Sally Ball, 7011 W. Lakeshore Dr., Shreveport, LA 71107, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 164.

Dustin Bertrand, Louisiana Right to Life, 108 West St. Paul St., Abbeville, LA 70510, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 164.

Mark Campo, Definition of Life, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 164.

Christy Lynch, 40 Sullivan Pl., New Orleans, LA 70131, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 164.

Cynthia Collins, Speak Hope, 550 Gause Blvd., Slidell, LA 70458, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 164.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report House Bill No. 164 with amendments, to which Representative Horton objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Adams, Knox, LaFleur, and Walters voted yea. Representatives Villio, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Ventrella, and Wiley voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 44 in support and 24 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 164 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcement.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice