

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 8, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 9:46 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 Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur, vice chair
Representative Lauren Ventrella
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley
Representative Michael T. Johnson, ex officio

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Joy Walters

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

Allie Eaves, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 804 by Representative Robby Carter

At the request of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 804, which provides relative to the prohibited distances near qualified truck stop facilities that are licensed to operate video poker draw devices. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 804 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Cox, Horton, Ventrella, Wiley, Mike Johnson, and Villio voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 79 by Senator Morris

At the request of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 79, a constitutional amendment to eliminate judge's discretion to grant bail for certain offenses after conviction. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 79 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Cox, Horton, Ventrella, Wiley, Mike Johnson, and Villio voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 19 by Representative Echols

Representative Echols presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 19, which requests a study of the land-based casino industry.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 19 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 19 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Ventrella, Wiley, and Villio voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 235 by Senator Hensgens

Senator Hensgens presented Senate Bill No. 235, which provides relative to the regulation of sports wagering.

Dr. Neely Heidorn, Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research Advisory Board, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 235, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 235.

Representative Ventrella offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 235 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 235 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Ventrella, Wiley, and Villio voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 637 by Representative Bryant

At the request 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 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Ventrella, Wiley, and Villio voted yea.

House Bill No. 805 by Representative Bryant

At the request of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 805, which provides a justification defense to domestic violence victim-defendants. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 805 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Ventrella, Wiley, and Villio voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 24 by Senator Seabaugh

Senator Seabaugh presented Senate Bill No. 24, which removes certain limitations on the release and dissemination of mug shots.

Sarah Whittington, Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana, 4035 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 24.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 24 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 24 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Ventrella, Wiley, and Villio voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 5 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 50 by Senator Reese

On behalf of Senator Reese, Chairman Ronnie Johns, Louisiana Gaming Control Board, 7901 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, presented Senate Bill No. 50, which prohibits certain persons from wagering on sports events.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to specify that the term of imprisonment for a second and subsequent violation of proposed law shall be 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 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Ventrella, Wiley, and Villio voted yea.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 50 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 50 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Ventrella, Wiley, and Villio voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 727 by Representative Mena

Representative Mena presented House Bill No. 727, which prohibits television advertising for sports wagering and fantasy sports.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Ventrella, Wiley, and Villio voted yea.

Lonnie Granier, Odyssey House Louisiana, 1125 N. Tonti St., New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 727.

Wade Duty, Louisiana Casino Association, P.O. Box 3801, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 727.

Representative Adams offered a motion to report House Bill No. 727 by substitute, to which Representative Villio objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 1 yeas and 6 nays. Representative Adams voted yea. Representatives Boyer, Cox, Horton, Wiley, Villio, and Mike Johnson voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in opposition and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 277 by Senator Duplessis

Senator Duplessis presented Senate Bill No. 277, which provides for requirements to the land-based casino operating contract.

Samir Mowad, Caesars Entertainment, 8 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 277.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 277 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 277 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Wiley, Mike Johnson, and Villio voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 91 by Senator Duplessis

Senator Duplessis presented Senate Bill No. 91, which extends the deadline for post-conviction DNA testing.

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

- (1) Make technical changes;
- (2) Change the date that a person convicted of a felony may file an application for post-conviction to request DNA testing under the specific provisions of present law from August 31, 2029, to August 31, 2030; and
- (3) Change a present law reference within the DNA Testing Post-Conviction Relief for Indigents Fund from the Louisiana Public Defender Board to the office of the state public defender.

Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Wiley, Mike Johnson, and Villio voted yea.

Representative Adams offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 91 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 91 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Wiley, Mike Johnson, and Villio 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. 184 by Senator Kleinpeter

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Bill No. 184, which increases the maximum time of incarceration for aggravated flight from an officer.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 504 Lakeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 184.

Checo Yancy, Voice of the Experienced, 251 Florida St., #201, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 184.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 184 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 184 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Wiley, Villio, and Mike Johnson voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 758 by Representative Davis

Representative Davis presented House Bill No. 758, which provides relative to fantasy sports contests and sports wagering.

At the request of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 758. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 758 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, LaFleur, Wiley, and Villio voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 7 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 886 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 886, which requires certain parishes to use sports wagering revenues remitted by the state for infrastructure improvements in particular areas.

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

- (1) Make technical changes;
- (2) Restructure provisions of proposed law relative to distribution of monies received from the Sports Wagering Local Allocation Fund;
- (3) Specify that monies received from the Sports Wagering Local Allocation Fund shall be allocated in equal portions for the following purposes:
 - (a) Infrastructure improvements that meet certain criteria;

- (b) Early childhood education programs; and
- (4) Provide that the monies received from the fund shall be allocated as provided in proposed law only after a proposition authorizing the distribution of such monies has been approved by a majority of the electors of the parish voting at an election held during the presidential election in 2024.

Representative Adams offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, LaFleur, Wiley, and Villio voted yea.

Sherri Buffington, parish of Caddo, 403 Southaven Ln., Shreveport, LA 71106, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 886.

Representative Horton offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 886. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 886 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, LaFleur, Wiley, and Villio voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 420 by Senator Hodges

On behalf of Senator Hodges, Representative Horton presented Senate Bill No. 420, which creates the crime of election fraud or forgery.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 420 favorably, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 420 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Wiley, and Villio voted yea. Representative LaFleur voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 420 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice