

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 14, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 9:30 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

Senate Bill No. 237 by Senator Pressly

Senator Pressly presented Senate Bill No. 237, which provides relative to industrial and consumable hemp.

Joseph Jones, North Louisiana Crime Lab, 1630 Tulane Ave., Shreveport, LA 71103, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 237.

Brandy Klingman, St. Christopher's Addiction Wellness, 150 Cora Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 237.

Gene Mills, Louisiana Family Forum, 655 St. Ferdinand St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 237.

Dr. Will Hall, Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy, 1250 MacArthur Dr., Alexandria, LA 71309, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 237.

Daryl Schouest, Hemp Association of Louisiana, P.O. Box 390, Leonville, LA 70551, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 237.

Ernest Legier, Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control, 7979 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 237.

Justin McClain, Louisiana Harvest Company, 1030 Gause Blvd. West, Slidell, LA 70460, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 237.

Paige Melancon, Hemp Association of Louisiana, 2742 Oscar Rivette Rd., Arnaudville, LA 70512, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 237.

Joe Gerrity, Crescent Distributions, 4505 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 237.

Jacob Landry, Urban South Brewery, 1645 Tchoupitoulas St., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 237.

Representative Cox offered an amendment to remove proposed law prohibiting any person from the process, sale, or offer for sale of any alcoholic beverage containing any THC. Representative Cox offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment, to which Representative Villio objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 6 nays.

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

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 237 favorably, to which Representative Walters objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 237 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Adams, Boyer, Knox, LaFleur, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 30 in support and 68 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 237 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 453 by Representative Kerner

Representative Kerner presented House Bill No. 453, which eliminates the statute of limitations to prosecute the crime of molestation of a juvenile.

Jill Dennis, 54019 Hwy. 433, Slidell, LA 70461, spoke in support of House Bill No. 453.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 453 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 453 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 453 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 339 by Senator Harris

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 339, which provides relative to aggravated and simple obstruction of a highway of commerce. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 339 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, and Wiley voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 429 by Senator Coussan

Senator Coussan presented Senate Bill No. 429, which provides relative to the Child Abuse Neglect Registry.

Zach Daniels, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 429.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 429 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 429 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Resolution No. 170 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Resolution No. 170, which requests the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee thereof, to study the current structure of the Board of Pardons. After discussion, Representative Mandie Landry withdrew House Resolution No. 170.

House Resolution No. 193 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Resolution No. 193, which establishes a subcommittee of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to examine matters relative to missing persons and unidentified and unclaimed remains.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 193 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 193 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 85 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 85, which directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to conduct a study of the criminal statutes relating to white-collar crimes, financial crimes, and crimes involving elected officials.

Representative Adams offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support. Witness

cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 466 by Senator Edmonds

On behalf of Senator Edmonds, Representative Bacala presented Senate Bill No. 466, which provides relative to criminal trespass.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 466 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 466 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, and Walters 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.

The committee stood at ease at 11:59 a.m. The committee reconvened at 12:05 p.m.

House Resolution No. 191 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Resolution No. 191, which requests the Louisiana State Law Institute to study the feasibility of statewide bail schedules.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 191 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 191 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Cox, Horton, Knox, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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.

The committee stood at ease at 12:07 p.m. The committee reconvened at 12:11 p.m.

Senate Bill No. 107 by Senator Mizell

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 107, which creates the crime of possessing, trafficking, or importing a child sex doll.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to change the age of the doll's resemblance from twelve years to eighteen years within the definition of "child sex doll". Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Cox, Horton, Knox, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 107 with amendments. Without

objection, Senate Bill No. 107 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Jessica Zuppardo, Homeland Security Investigations, 1250 Poydras St., Ste. 2200, New Orleans, LA 70113, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 107.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 107 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 116 by Senator Jackson-Andrews

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 116, which provides relative to the expungement of felony convictions. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 116 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice