

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 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 9:03 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Debbie Villio, chair
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 Roy Daryl Adams
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
Allie Eaves, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Resolution No. 243 by Representative Wyble

Representative Wyble presented House Resolution No. 243, which directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to study provisions relative to physical or sexual abuse of a minor and consider requiring a seventy-two hour hold for offenders.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 243 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 243 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

House Resolution No. 244 by Representative Echols

On behalf of Representative Echols, Representative Villio presented House Resolution No. 244, which requests a study of the brick-and-mortar casino operations in Louisiana.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 244 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 244 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

The committee stood at ease at 9:32 a.m. The committee reconvened at 9:42 a.m.

House Resolution No. 253 by Representative Mandie Landry

On behalf of Representative Mandie Landry, Representative Bacala presented House Resolution No. 253, which authorizes continuation of the Safe Alternatives to Segregation Task Force and provides for membership, powers, and duties and a report of findings.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 253 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 253 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 126 by Representative Bryant

On behalf of Representative Bryant, Representative LaFleur presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 126, which requests the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice and Senate Committee on Judiciary B to conduct a joint oversight meeting relative to charitable gaming.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to remove the Senate Committee on Judiciary B from the oversight request. 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, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 126 with amendments. Representative Horton withdrew her motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 126 with amendments.

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 126. Without objection, action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 126 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 918 by Representative Kerner

Representative Kerner presented House Bill No. 918, which creates the crime of defamation.

On behalf of Representative Kerner, Representative Bacala offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

At the request of the author, Representative LaFleur offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 918. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 918 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley 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. 116 by Senator Jackson-Andrews

Senator Jackson-Andrews presented Senate Bill No. 116, which provides relative to the expungement of felony convictions.

Representative Ventrella offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 116 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 116 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 430 by Senator Jackson-Andrews

Senator Jackson-Andrews presented Senate Bill No. 430, which provides relative to the death penalty.

Aaron Bloch, Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, 212 Alonzo St., New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 430.

Brandi Melissa, Death Penalty Action, P.O. Box 1171, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 430.

Arnie Fielkow, Jews Against Gassing Coalition, 6239 General Diaz St., New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 430, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Sara Lewis, Jewish Community Relations Council and the National Council for Jewish Community, 1122 Toledano St., New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 430.

Rabbi David Cohen-Henriquez, Jews Against Gassing, 7830 Nelson St., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 430.

John Sinquefield, designee of Attorney General Liz Murrill, 1885 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 430.

Phillip Terrell, Rapides Parish District Attorney, 701 Murray St., Alexandria, LA 71301, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 430.

Wayne Guzzardo, 26017 Shadow Brook Ave., Denham Springs, LA 70721, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 430.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 430 favorably, to which Representative Fontenot objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives 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: 17 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 430 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 507 by Senator Talbot

Senator Talbot presented Senate Bill No. 507, which provides relative to the illegal or negligent carrying of a concealed handgun.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to make technical changes. 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.

Representative Villio offered amendments to specify the duties of law enforcement relative to reasonable suspicion, searches, and detention involving persons carrying concealed firearms. 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.

Will Harrell, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, 2800 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 507.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 507 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 507 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice