

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Third Extraordinary Session
November 18, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur, vice chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 10:04 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 Joy Walters
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zachary Gonzalez, attorney
Dave Storment, attorney
Stephanie Weinman, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Johnae Conner, sergeant at arms
Michael McCain, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 2 by Senator Cloud

On behalf of Senator Cloud, Representative Villio presented Senate Bill No. 2, a constitutional amendment which provides relative to offenses to which special juvenile procedures are not applicable. Representative Villio also presented a video in support of Senate Bill No. 2.

Tony Clayton, district attorney, 18th Judicial District Court, 58050 Meriam St., Plaquemine, LA 70764, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 2.

The committee stood at ease at 10:59 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:01 a.m.

Hillar Moore, district attorney, 19th Judicial District Court, 222 St. Louis St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 2.

Representative C. Denise Marcelle, district 61, 1824 N. Acadian Thwy. W., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Michael Cahoon, The Promise of Justice Initiative, 1024 Elysian Fields Ave., New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Marcela Hernandez, Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants, 1120 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Michael McClanahan, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 7600 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70814, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Rassie Givens, Baton Rouge Community Street Team, 9925 Meadowdale Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70811, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Breka Peoples, Families and Friends of Louisiana Incarcerated Children, 9000 Walker Rd., Shreveport, LA 71118, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Winnie Darphin-Bacque, Voice of the Experienced, 104 Melrose Dr., Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Ellen Hahn, Voice of the Experienced, 2223 W. St. Mary Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Consuela Gaines, Voice of the Experienced, 105 Delphine St., Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Representative Bacala in the chair.

Rev. Alexis Anderson, PREACH and East Baton Rouge Parish Prison Reform Coalition, 804 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Vice Chair LaFleur in the chair.

Darryl Hurst, councilman, East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council, 4356 Norwich Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70814, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Matthew Isaak, 212 Paradise St., Lafayette, LA 70501, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Bruce Reilly, Voice of the Experienced, 4930 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Khadijah Rashad, Voice of the Experienced, 308 Lafayette St., Lafayette, LA 70501, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Gerald Haynes, Impacted Solitary Survivors Council, 1044 Grebe St., Baton Rouge, LA 70807, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 S. Acadian Thwy., Ste. 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Lady Carlson, Together LA, 1520 Thomas H. Delpit Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Mary Anne Mushatt, 6030 S. Robertson St., New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Sherie Thomas, Justice and Accountability Center, 4035 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Jacquelyn Lindle Germany, Step Up Action, 767 N. 35th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Checo Yancy, Voice of the Experienced, 251 Florida St. #201, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Natasha White, Impacted Solitary Survivors Council, 3 Oakleigh Ct., Norwalk, CT 06853, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Megan Sheehan-Dean, 615 Camelia Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Rebecca Bohm, 411 Westwood Dr., Mandeville, LA 70471, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Representative Walters offered an amendment to retain the list of offenses contained in the present constitution and add aggravated battery with a firearm to the list of offenses. Representative Walters offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Villio objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, and Walters voted yea. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, and Wiley voted nay.

Asya Howlette, 3918 N. Derbigny St., New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Merrilee Montgomery, Louisiana Progress, 650 N. 6th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Rebekah Brumfield, Impacted Solitary Survivors Council, 7819 Blake Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 708017, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Hannah Van De Car, Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, 1100-B Milton St., New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Chandra Shae Foster, Southern Poverty Law Center, 201 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70170, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 504 Lakeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Kaneisha Johnson, no address provided, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 2 favorably, to which Representative Walters objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 2 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, 29 in opposition, 1 for information only, and 1 designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 2 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice