

## House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Second Extraordinary Session  
February 26, 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 10:10 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 Michael T. Johnson  
Representative Alonzo L. Knox  
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur, vice chair  
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore  
Representative Lauren Ventrella  
Representative Joy Walters  
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

#### **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. 12 by Representative McCormick**

On behalf of the author, Representative LaFleur offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 12, which provides relative to the concealed carrying of firearms. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 12 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Mike Johnson, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

#### **Senate Bill No. 1 by Senator Miguez**

Senator Miguez presented Senate Bill No. 1, which provides relative to the right of law-abiding citizens to carry concealed handguns lawfully without a permit.

Representative Knox offered an amendment to designate neighborhoods in the downtown area of the city of New Orleans as a firearm-free zone. After discussion, Representative Knox withdrew the proposed amendment.

Barry Ivey, P.O. Box 78010, Baton Rouge, LA 70837, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 1.

Kelby Seanor, National Rifle Association, 1125 Waples Mill Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 1.

Devon McVey, American Action Fund, no address provided, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 1.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 1.

Everett C. Baudean, Louisiana Shooting Association, 704 S. Foster Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 1.

Barret Kendrick, Louisiana Shooting Association, 427 N. Theard St., Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 1.

Joshua Barnhill, Gun Owners of America, 508 Montrose Ave., Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 1.

Chris B. Thayer, Louisiana Shooting Association, 18643 Bay Ridge Ct., Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 1.

Helena Moreno, New Orleans City Council, 1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 1.

Lawrence Dupree, New Orleans Police Department, 1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 1.

Angelle Bradford, 1811 Urquhart St., New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 1.

Thomas Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 S. Acadian Thwy., Ste. 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 1.

Nanette Olivier, 5721 S. Pollard Pkwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 1.

Dr. James McNary, 2313 Bienville St., New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 1.

Dr. Julia Fleckman, Tulane University Violence Prevention Institute, 1440 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 1.

Captain Bryan Lee, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 1.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 1 favorably, to which Representative Knox objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 1 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Mike Johnson, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, and Moore voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 10 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 1 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Bill No. 15 by Representative Boyd**

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 15, which provides for time limitations for prosecution of third degree rape.

Helena Moreno, New Orleans City Council, 1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 70113, spoke in support of House Bill No. 15.

Morgan Lamandre, Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response, 5615 Corporate Blvd., Ste. 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 15.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 15 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 15 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Mike Johnson, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 15 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Bill No. 21 by Representative Jordan**

Representative Jordan presented House Bill No. 21, which provides relative to the release dates of inmates within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 N. 6th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 21.

Jan Moller, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Hwy., Ste. 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 21.

Bruce Reilly, 4930 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in support of House Bill No. 21.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 21 favorably, to which Representative Bacala objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Adams, Knox, Moore, and Walters voted yea. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Mike Johnson, LaFleur, and Wiley voted nay.

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

The committee stood at ease at 12:48 p.m. The committee reconvened at 1:09 p.m.

*Representative Villio in the chair.*

### **Senate Bill No. 3 by Senator Cloud**

Senator Cloud presented Senate Bill No. 3, which lowers the age for consideration as a juvenile in the criminal justice system.

Michael Ranatza, executive director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 3.

Zachary T. Daniels, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 3.

Tony Clayton, district attorney, 18th Judicial District Court, 3341 Louisiana Hwy. 1 S., Port Allen, LA 70767, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 3.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 504 Lakeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 3.

Will Harrell, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, 2800 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 3.

Ashley Hamilton, Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, 1101B Milton St., New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 3.

Jamila Ellis, 2525 Oneal Ln., Apt. 920, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 3.

Natalie Sharp, 232 S. Scott St., New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 3.

Maggie Lanphere, 2808 Castiglione St., New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 3.

Mary-Patricia Wray, Vera Institute for Justice, 2360 Tulip St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 3.

Terry Landry, Jr., Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund, 201 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 3.

Daniel Ginnetty, 501 South Chestnut St., Hammond, LA 70403, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 3.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 S. Acadian Thwy., Ste. 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 3.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 3 favorably, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 3 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Mike Johnson, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 22 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 3 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

**Senate Bill No. 4 by Senator Cloud**

Senator Cloud presented Senate Bill No. 4, which provides relative to disposition of a juvenile after adjudication of certain felony-grade delinquent acts.

Representative Villio offered amendments to:

- (1) Relative to adjudication of a felony-grade delinquent act, change the offense type from any offense that is a crime of violence to present law offenses of armed robbery or carjacking;
- (2) Add any second offense of all crimes of violence as a type of offense where an adjudicated child can be committed to secure placement;
- (3) Provide an alternative placement option for an adjudicated child at either a secure public or private institution;
- (4) Change the amount of time before a modification can occur after a disposition from one-half of the disposition to twenty-four months;
- (5) Provide for an alternative modification of one-half of the disposition if the disposition is less than thirty-six months; and
- (6) Relative to conditions that determine a child's risk to the community, replace the condition relative to behavioral violations with a condition that the child has a favorable progress report from the placement facility.

Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Mike Johnson, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Joseph Dominick, president, Louisiana Juvenile Detention Association, 28528 Hwy. 190, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 4.

Anthony Celestine, Louisiana Juvenile Detention Association, P.O. Box 2073, Lake Charles, LA 70602, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 4.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 504 Lakeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 4.

Ashley Hamilton, Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, 1101B Milton St., New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 4.

Daniel Ginnetty, 501 S. Chestnut St., Hammond, LA 70403, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 4.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 4 with amendments, to which Representative Walters objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 4 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Mike Johnson, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea. Representative Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 17 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 4 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

#### **Senate Bill No. 5 by Senator McMath**

On behalf of Senator McMath, Representative Fontenot presented Senate Bill No. 5, which provides for parole proceedings and revocation of parole in certain cases.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 5 favorably, to which Representative Knox objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 5 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Mike Johnson, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 16 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 5 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

#### **Senate Bill No. 7 by Senator Edmonds**

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 7, which provides relative to penalties for the crime of operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to clarify that no provision of law shall require using a certain vendor for interlock devices who meets the requirements of present law. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Mike Johnson, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

*Representative LaFleur in the chair.*

Paula Zachary, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, 29955 West St., Apt. B7, Albany, LA 70711, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 7.

Natalie Costello, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, 3048 Oakland Rd., Lakeland, LA 70752, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 7.

Deidre D. Sanderford Carmena, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, 9121 Meadow Creek Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 7.

*Representative Villio in the chair.*

Mary-Patricia Wray, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, 2360 Tulip St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 7.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 7 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 7 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Mike Johnson, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

#### **Senate Bill No. 9 by Senator Mizell**

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 9, which provides time limitations for the initiation of prosecution of certain sex offenses.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 9 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 9 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Mike Johnson, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 9 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

#### **Senate Bill No. 11 by Senator Cathey**

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 11, which lowers the age for consideration as a juvenile in the criminal justice system. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 11 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 10 by Senator Cathey**

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 10, which reduces good time earned by prisoners sentenced for the death of a peace officer or first responder.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 10 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 10 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 10 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

**Senate Bill No. 8 by Senator Reese**

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 8, which creates the office of state public defender and transfer authority from the Louisiana Public Defender Board. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 8 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio  
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice