

## House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
April 17, 2024

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 9:59 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 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

Robert Singletary, attorney

### III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

#### **House Bill No. 750 by Representative Freeman**

On behalf of the author, Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 750, which provides relative to firearm-free zones.

Representative Walters offered an amendment to provide that the owner of a location of a child day care center, a developmental center established under the supervision of the Louisiana Department of Health, an early learning center, or a nursing facility or nursing home shall be exempt from the "firearm-free zone". Representative Walters offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Devin Davis, 2616 N. Villere St., New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in support of House Bill No. 750.

Dan Zelenka, Louisiana Shooting Association, 11 Caroline Ct., Covington, LA 70433, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 750.

Chris Patron, Firearm Professionals of Louisiana, 593 Claiborne Trails Dr., Slidell, LA 70458, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 750.

Kelby Seanor, National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 750.

Barret Kendrick, Louisiana Shooting Association, 427 N. Heard St., Covington, LA 70433, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 750.

Everett C. Baudean, Louisiana Shooting Association, 704 S. Foster Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 750.

Bruce Reilly, Voice of the Experienced, 4930 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 750.

Mary S. "Susie" Labry, 40128B Emerald Dr., Ponchatoula, LA 70454, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 750.

Michelle Anderson, 3115 Napoleon Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 750.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 750 with amendments, to which Representative Ventrella objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Adams, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, 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: 20 in support and 21 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 750 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **Senate Bill No. 377 by Senator Kleinpeter**

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Bill No. 377, which prohibits possession of firearms, ammunition, or electric weapons or devices by certain felons.

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

- (1) Make technical changes; and
- (2) Provide an exception to proposed law for any person who has been accepted into military service as a member of any of the branches of the armed forces of the United States, the reserve components of the armed forces of the United States, or the Louisiana National Guard.

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, Knox, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Stephanie L. Willis, American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana, P.O. Box 56157, New Orleans, LA 70152, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 377.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 504 Lakeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 377.

Mike Weinberger, Home Defense Foundation, 114 Dahlia St., Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 377.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 377 with amendments, to which Representative Walters objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 377 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams,

Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Moore and Walters voted nay.

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

### **Senate Bill No. 105 by Senator Seabaugh**

Senator Seabaugh presented Senate Bill No. 105, which provides relative to the crime of possession of or carrying a concealed weapon by a person convicted of certain felonies.

Mike Weinberger, Home Defense Foundation, 114 Dahlia St., Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 105.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 504 Lakeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 105.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 105 favorably, to which Representative Knox objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 105 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Knox, Moore, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 24 in support and 15 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 105 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Bill No. 62 by Representative McCormick**

On behalf of the author, Jered Taylor, American Firearms Association, 6031 E. Main St., Ste. 311, Columbus, OH 43213, presented House Bill No. 62, which provides relative to enforcement of federal firearm laws.

Michelle Anderson, 3115 Napoleon Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 62.

Representative Horton offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 62. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 62 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 24 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 62 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Bill No. 498 by Representative Knox**

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 498, which provides relative to firearm-free zones.

Representative Knox offered an amendment to designate proposed law as "The Darriel King and Jezreel Poleate Security and Safety Act". Representative Knox 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, Adams, Bacala, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Knox offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes; and
- (2) Provide relative to prohibited locations where a concealed handgun may not be carried, and provide an exception for a major entertainment district so long as the person has been issued a valid concealed handgun permit.

Representative Knox offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Councilman Helena Moreno, New Orleans City Council, 1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in support of House Bill No. 498.

Deputy Chief Nicholas Gernon, New Orleans Police Department, 1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in support of House Bill No. 498.

Glade Bilby, French Quarter Management District, 826 St. Ann St., New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in support of House Bill No. 498.

Wesley Bishop, designee on behalf of Councilman Oliver Thomas, 1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 498.

Chief Howard, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, 2800 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 498.

*Representative Fontenot in the chair.*

Everett Baudean, Louisiana Shooting Association, 704 S. Foster Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 498.

Barret Kendrick, Louisiana Shooting Association, 427 N. Theard St., Covington, LA 70433, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 498.

Devon McVey, American Action Fund, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 498.

Chris Patron, Firearm Professionals of Louisiana, 593 Claiborne Trails Dr., Slidell, LA 70458, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 498.

Dan Zelenka, Louisiana Shooting Association, 11 Carolina Ct., Covington, LA 70433, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 498.

*Representative Villio in the chair.*

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 498.

Kelby Seanor, National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 498.

Representative Moore offered a motion to report House Bill No. 498 with amendments. After discussion, Representative Moore withdrew her motion.

Representative Knox offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 498. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 498 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 38 in support and 21 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 498 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **Senate Bill No. 43 by Senator McMath**

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio presented Senate Bill No. 43, which provides for carrying of concealed firearms by qualified retired law enforcement officers.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 43 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 43 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Moore, Ventrella, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 8 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. 43 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

The committee stood at ease at 1:05 p.m. The committee reconvened at 1:27 p.m.

### **Senate Bill No. 132 by Senator Miller**

Senator Miller presented Senate Bill No. 132, which provides relative to the crimes of illegal carrying of a firearm and reckless discharge of a firearm at a parade.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 132 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 132 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 19 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 132 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **Senate Bill No. 214 by Senator Miguez**

On behalf of the author, Representative Fontenot presented Senate Bill No. 214, which allows the concealed carrying of firearms in a restaurant that serves alcohol.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to change the effective date from August 1, 2024, to July 4, 2024. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Dan Zelenka, Louisiana Shooting Association, 11 Carolina Ct., Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 214.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 214 with amendments, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 214 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives LaFleur, Moore,

and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 28 in support and 28 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 214 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **Senate Bill No. 194 by Senator Miguez**

Senator Miguez presented Senate Bill No. 194, which provides for the preemption of state law for firearms.

Dan Zelenka, Louisiana Shooting Association, 11 Carolina Ct., Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 194.

Todd Rathner, Knife Rights, 1370 W. Silverbell Rd., Tucson, AZ 85745, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 194.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 194 favorably, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 194 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 29 in support and 23 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 194 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **Senate Bill No. 152 by Senator Miguez**

Senator Miguez presented Senate Bill No. 152, which provides relative to the right of law-abiding citizens to carry concealed handguns lawfully without a permit.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered an amendment to change the effective date from August 1, 2024, to July 4, 2024. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 152 with amendments, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No.



152 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, 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: 26 in support and 10 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 152 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

**Senate Bill No. 233 by Senator Miguez**

Senator Miguez presented Senate Bill No. 233, which provides for the carrying of concealed firearms by qualified law enforcement officers and qualified retired law enforcement officers.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 233 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 233 was reported favorably 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.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support and 14 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio  
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice