

House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 11, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Troy D. Romero, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Troy D. Romero, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative Chance Keith Henry
Representative Jacob Jules Gabriel Landry
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Francis C. Thompson
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley
Representative Kimberly Landry Coates
Representative Adrian Fisher
Representative C. Travis Johnson, vice chairman
Representative Larry Selders

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lashay Masami, attorney
Ashley Davillier, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms
Cesilee Oliver, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 327 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 327, which provides relative to timber harvesting operations.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report House Bill No. 327 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 327 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Boyer, Butler, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

Witness cards presented 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.

House Bill No. 284 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 284, which provides relative to the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority.

Commissioner Strain, LDAF, Third Floor, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 284.

Representative Turner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 284 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 284 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Boyer, Butler, Henry, Jacob Landry, McMahan, Schamerhorn, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

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

House Bill No. 653 by Representative Ventrella

On behalf of Representative Ventrella, Representative McMahan presented House Bill No. 653, which creates the Louisiana Commemorative Pet Stamp Program.

Mr. Jeff Dorson, Pet Overpopulation Advisory Council, P.O. Box 740321, New Orleans, LA 70174, spoke in support of House Bill No. 653.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Capitol, no city provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 653.

Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to report House Bill No. 653 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 653 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Boyer, Bryant, Butler, Henry, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

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

House Bill No. 670 by Representative Jordan

Representative Jordan presented House Bill No. 670, which provides relative to the Healthy Food Retail Act.

Commissioner Strain, LDAF, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 670.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 670 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 670 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Boyer, Bryant, Butler, Henry, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

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

House Bill No. 587 by Representative Bryant

Representative Bryant presented House Bill No. 587, which provides relative to liability insurance for arborists.

Representative Romero offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Romero offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Boyer, Bryant, Butler, Henry, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 587.

Representative Bryant offered a motion to report House Bill No. 587 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 587 was reported by substitute by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Boyer, Bryant, Butler, Henry, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

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

House Bill No. 150 by Representative C. Travis Johnson

On behalf of Representative C. Travis Johnson, Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 150, which provides relative to the Delta Agriculture Research and Sustainability District.

Representative Romero offered amendments to:

1. Remove the requirement that a district director hired after July 1, 2024 establish residency in the district within three months from hiring.
2. Make technical changes.

Representative Romero offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Boyer, Bryant, Butler, Henry, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

Representative Romero offered amendments to:

1. Make the following members of the board ex officio members without voting rights: the presidents of La. Tech University or his designee; the president of the University of La. at Monroe or his designee; the president of the Southern University System or his designee; the president of the Louisiana State University System or his designee; and the president of Grambling State University or his designee.
2. Make technical changes.

Representative Romero offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée,

Boyer, Bryant, Butler, Henry, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 150 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 150 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Boyer, Bryant, Butler, Henry, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

Representative Turner in the chair.

House Bill No. 134 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 134, which provides relative to the regulation of fuel used in agricultural machinery.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 134.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 134 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 134 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Boyer, Butler, Henry, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, St. Blanc, Thompson, and Turner voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

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

House Bill No. 240 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 240, which provides relative to the Louisiana Weights and Measures Law.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 240.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 240 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 240 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Boyer, Butler, Henry, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Thompson, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

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

House Bill No. 910 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 910, which provides relative to the Horticulture Commission.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 910.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 910 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 910 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Boyer, Butler, Henry, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Matt Lee, LSU AgCenter, 101 Efferson Hall, no city provided, provided an overview of the LSU AgCenter and presented a PowerPoint entitled "Agriculture in the Pentagon", and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Henry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Romero, Amedée, Boyer, Butler, Henry, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Troy D. Romero
House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development

Date adopted: