

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

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 18, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative C. Travis Johnson, vice chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, called the meeting to order at 9:32 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 Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley
Representative Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Kimberly Landry Coates
Representative Adrian Fisher
Representative Chance Keith Henry
Representative C. Travis Johnson, vice chairman
Representative Jacob Jules Gabriel Landry
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Larry Selders
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative Francis C. Thompson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lashay Masami, attorney
Ashley Davillier, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms
Cesilee Oliver, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 42 by Representative Bagley

Representative Bagley presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 42, which urges and requests the Louisiana State University AgCenter and the Southern University Ag Center to work together to study alternative uses of sugarcane bagasse and to make recommendations on how such alternatives can be used to benefit sugarcane producers economically.

Mr. Pat Bagley, Southern University, no address provided, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 42.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, Third Floor, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 42.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 42 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 42 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Bagley, Boyer, Bryant, Coates, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

House Resolution No. 119 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Resolution No. 119, which creates and provides for a subcommittee to study and recommend laws or actions to address the impact of the infestation of beetles and other pests on pine and other trees and the safety of persons and utilities.

Representative C. Travis Johnson offered a technical amendment. Representative C. Travis Johnson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Boyer, Bryant, Coates, Fisher, Henry, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, Third Floor, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 119.

Representative Romero in the chair.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 119 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 119 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Romero, Amedée, Boyer, Bryant, Coates, Fisher, Henry, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 52 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 52, which creates the Louisiana Emergency Beetle Commission to study and recommend laws or actions to address the impact of the infestation of beetles and other pests on pine and other trees and the safety of persons and utilities.

Representative Romero offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 52. Without objection, action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 52 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Romero, Amedée, Boyer, Bryant, Coates, Fisher, Henry, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 95 by Senator Wheat

Senator Wheat presented Senate Bill No. 95, which provides relative to strayed animals.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, no address provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 95.

Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 95 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 95 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Romero, Boyer, Coates, Henry, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 104 by Senator Wheat

Senator Wheat presented Senate Bill No. 104, which provides relative to livestock found at large.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, no address provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 104.

Representative Schamerhorn offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 104 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 104 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Romero, Boyer, Bryant, Coates, Henry, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 61, which urges and requests the Legislature of Louisiana to support the "Greaux the Good" farmers market match program.

Ms. Liz Mangham, Greaux the Good, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 61.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 61.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Romero, Amedée, Boyer, Bryant, Coates, Henry, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 114 by Senator Cathey

On behalf of Senator Cathey, Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, no address provided, presented Senate Bill No. 114, which provides relative to meat and poultry inspection.

Representative Selders offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 114 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 114 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Romero, Amedée, Boyer, Coates, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Selders, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 249 by Senator Cathey

On behalf of Senator Cathey, Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, no address provided, presented Senate Bill No. 249, which provides relative to the Louisiana Agricultural Chemistry and Seed Commission.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 249 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 249 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Romero, Amedée, Boyer, Coates, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Selders, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 82 by Senator Allain

On behalf of Senator Allain, Representative Jacob Landry presented Senate Bill No. 82, which provides relative to the state chemist.

Representative Jacob Landry offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 82 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 82 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Romero, Amedée, Boyer, Coates, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Selders, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

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.

Senate Bill No. 117 by Senator Jackson-Andrews

Representative Travis Johnson in the chair.

On behalf of Senator Jackson-Andrews, Representative Romero presented Senate Bill No. 117, which creates the Agricultural Meteorology Program.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, no address provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 117.

Representative Schamerhorn offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 117 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 117 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Romero, Boyer, Coates, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, St. Blanc, and Wyble voted yea.

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. 812 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 812, which makes changes to the Louisiana Crawfish Promotion and Research Board.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, Third Floor, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 812.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 812 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 812 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Romero, Boyer, Coates, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, St. Blanc, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards presented by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Fisher offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Romero, Boyer, Coates, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, St. Blanc, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: