

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

Minutes of Meeting

2024-2025 Interim

October 3, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Troy D. Romero, chair 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, chair
Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley
Representative Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative Kimberly Landry Coates
Representative Chance Keith Henry
Representative C. Travis Johnson, vice chair
Representative Jacob Jules Landry
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Adrian Fisher
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Larry Selders
Representative Francis C. Thompson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lashay Masami, attorney
Ashley Davillier, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**To review the policies and procedures of the Louisiana State Police pertaining to traffic and citations related to agriculture**

Kyle L. McCann, Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, 7000 Commerce Circle, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only. He stated his office created educational guides that are available on their website to help citizens understand farm vehicle compliance.

Joe Mapes, Farm Bureau, 731 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only. He referenced the slow moving vehicle program in the Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 32 and suggested it be expanded to make it more efficient.

Joey Register, Farm Bureau, 628 Tyler Road, Logansport, LA, spoke for information only. He shared an experience that happened to him months prior where he was pulled over by the police for a random inspection of his fuel trailer and was handed 11 citations for being in violation. He stated he did not know at the time that he violated any laws and asked for clarity and awareness on the laws to avoid similar situations.

Representative Schamerhorn shared that he experienced a situation similar to Mr. Register's, as he was pulled over and cited for fuel tank violations he was not aware of, and suggested the state police handle minor violations differently instead of putting working class farmers out of work.

Representative Butler shared she also experienced receiving citations from state police for minor violations. She stated although her business is regulated by the agriculture industry, it does not allow them protections or exemptions, and she hopes this would change.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of LA, 707 North Seventh, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only. He stated he has not had any issues with hauling fuel tanks but has heard stories from farmers he works with that had issues. He stated he understands the state police are just doing their jobs when issuing citations for the safety of their community and asked the committee to keep his office in the loop if any changes in the law goes into effect regarding fuel tanks.

Hanna Gettys, Louisiana Municipal Association, 6767 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only. She stated their office has not gotten any calls regarding the law surrounding fuel tanks and that they are willing to help in any way they can.

Jerry Lang, LDEQ, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only. He stated his department supports the rules made by the state police and they have limited concerns.

Lieutenant Dustin Dwight, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only. He reiterated they are a part of the community and respect the concerns of the truckers and farmers regarding the fuel tank violations.

Sergeant Brady Johnson, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only and presented a PowerPoint entitled, "Louisiana State Police: Transportation Safety Services", and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records. He stated his department conducts safety talks at trucking companies around the state and that if anyone has questions about the regulations being discussed, they are happy to answer them. He then gave a brief overview of the safety protocols and exemptions truckers can take advantage of to help them stay in compliance.

Lieutenant Michael T. Harper, Louisiana State Police, 5050 Industrial Drive Extension, Bossier City, LA 71112, spoke for information only. He discussed a portion of the PowerPoint with Sergeant Johnson and went into detail regarding the fuel tank transportation exemptions.

Prepared statements were received via email.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Troy D. Romero

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Date approved: