

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

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 25, 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 1:32 p.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 Kimberly Landry Coates
Representative Adrian Fisher
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 Francis C. Thompson
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley
Representative Chance Keith Henry

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lashay Masami, attorney
Ashley Davillier, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms
Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 920 by Representative Brown

Representative Brown presented House Bill No. 920, which transfers jurisdiction of commercial crawfish harvesters from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to the Department of Agriculture.

Representative Romero offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 920. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 920 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Boyer, Bryant, Coates, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

Witness cards presented by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in opposition and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 287 by Senator Duplessis

On behalf of Senator Duplessis, Representative Selders presented Senate Bill No. 287, which provides relative to the Healthy Food Retail Act.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, Third Floor, Capitol, no city provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 287.

Mr. Charles Phipps, Urban League of Louisiana, 4640 S. Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 287.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 287 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 287 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Boyer, Bryant, Butler, Coates, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, 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.

Senate Bill No. 326 by Senator Reese

On behalf of Senator Reese, Representative Romero presented Senate Bill No. 326, which provides for training and education on post traumatic stress and emotional support for certain fighters.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, Third Floor, Capitol, no city provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 326.

Representative C. Travis Johnson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 326 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 326 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedee, Boyer, Bryant, Butler, Coates, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 326 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 467 by Representative Coates

Representative Coates presented House Bill No. 467, which provides relative to the sale of raw milk.

Representative Romero offered amendments to:

1. Define "raw milk" in R.S. 3:1391 as the lacteal secretion from any species other than humans, that has not been pasteurized in accordance with the processes recognized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
2. Provide labeling requirements for raw milk sold as commercial feed.
3. Remove references to "incidental" sales.
4. Change the definition of "sales of goat milk and whole milk that has not been pasteurized" by clarifying that such milk is for human consumption.
5. Remove proposed law provisions pertaining to the sale of cheese made from raw milk.
6. Remove language pertaining to transportation of raw milk from provisions governing how raw milk is handled.
7. Remove provisions pertaining to vehicles used to transport raw milk to consumers.

8. Remove the requirement that container closure and sealing be accomplished with approved mechanical equipment.
9. Remove the requirement that bottling, packaging, and container filling process be done at a milkhouse or milk room.
10. Change the cooling requirement of milk to two hours after being drawn after the first milking, instead of immediately afterwards.
11. Require coliform testing to be done once per month.
12. Require Special Plate Count testing to be done once per month and result in a rolling three-month rolling average of 15,000 per ml of raw milk.
13. Require a producers or farmers of raw milk to complete a course approved by LDH.
14. Require at least one course to be readily available online and that the LDH post the approved courses on its website by Jan. 1, 2025.
15. Make technical changes.

Representative Romero offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedee, Boyer, Bryant, Butler, Coates, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Romero abstained.

Representative Coates provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Hubert Karreman, dairy farmers, 2816 Saxapahaw-Bethlehem Church Road, Graham, NC 27253, spoke in support of House Bill No. 467.

Ms. Margaret "Peg" Coleman, Coleman Scientific Consulting, WAPF, 434 West Groton Road, Groton, NY 13073, spoke in support of House Bill No. 467.

Mr. Kendall Stanga, 40122 James Stanga Lane, Ponchatoula, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 467.

Mr. Tom Faber, 11692 Clay Ansley Highway, Ruston, LA 71270, spoke in support of House Bill No. 467.

Mr. Hawkeye Clarke, on behalf of himself and cattlemen, 14140 Brown Road, Denham Springs, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 467.

Ms. Haylee Renaud, 42460 Evangeline Drive, Hammond, LA 70403, spoke in support of House Bill No. 467.

Ms. Jennifer Blanchard, representing herself and Citizen LA, 625 Convention Street, Apartment 311, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 467.

Mr. John Alford, 80398 Sticker Road, Bush, LA 70431, spoke in support of House Bill No. 467.

Ms. Katelyn Faber, 681 Highway 155, Quitman, LA 71268, spoke in support of House Bill No. 467.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, Third Floor, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 467 and provided a handout entitled "Emerging Infectious Diseases", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Dr. Pete Croughan, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 467.

Representative Bryant offered a motion to report House Bill No. 467 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 467 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedee, Boyer, Bryant, Butler, Coates, C. Travis Johnson, 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: 28 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 467 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative McCormick offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Romero, Amedee, Boyer, Bryant, Butler, Coates, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMahan, Schamerhorn, Thompson, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: