

House Committee on Commerce

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
March 25, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel, chair of the House Committee on Commerce, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel, chair
Representative Delisha Boyd
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Paula P. Davis
Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Troy Jude Hebert
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Edmond Jordan
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Jacob Jules Gabriel Landry
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Dixon Wallace McMakin
Representative Shaun Raphael Mena
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Polly Thomas, vice chair

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Victoria Kelley, attorney
Kathryn Vigrass, legislative analyst
Sharell Steven, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Elizabeth Douglas, sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed, division director
Randall Ike, committee clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Angela Mamou, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 478 by Representative Glorioso**

Representative Deshotel announced that action on House Bill No. 478, which provides certain limitations on the amount of property insurance required by mortgage lenders, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 131 by Representative Boyer

Representative Deshotel announced that action on House Bill No. 131, which provides for payment of horse racing purses, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 488 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 488, which provides relative to blockchain and digital asset regulation.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Hebert, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Eric Peterson, Satoshi Action Fund, 1933 S. Lopez St., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Bill No. 488.

Michelle Jeansonne, Office of Financial Institutions (OFI), 8660 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 488.

Nic Campesi, Liquihash, 17732 Highland Rd., Ste. G-15C, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in support of House Bill No. 488.

Representative Davis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 488 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 488 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 488 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 357 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 357, which provides relative to central bank digital currency.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 3301 17th St., # 7443, Metairie, LA 70010, spoke in support of House Bill No. 357.

Representative Davis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 357 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 357 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 357 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 714 by Representative Crews

Representative Crews presented House Bill No. 714, which establishes gold and silver as currency.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

John Fleming, Louisiana State Treasury, 900 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 714 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Prohibit the sale or distribution of a depositor's personal financial information or related data to any unaffiliated third party.
- (3) Provide that the treasurer shall not authorize or implement any rules or have any duties beyond those rules and duties required to make gold and silver a means of currency in the state.
- (4) Prohibit a depository, the treasury, or his appointees from investing deposited funds.
- (5) Provide that the depository shall not withhold the currency of any depositor or impose a waiting period on a depositor for withdrawal of his currency.
- (6) Provide that the state shall not incur any additional costs to the state general fund to administer the provisions of this Chapter.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Woody Jenkins, Department of Treasury, 900 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 714.

Mike Carter, Citizen Activist, 1015 Fox Hollow Ln., Oak Point, TX 75068, spoke in support for House Bill No. 714.

Christy Haik, Republicans State Central Committee 16A and Republican Parish Executive Committee District 7, 1377 Steele Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 714.

Joe Gendron, Louisiana Bankers Association (LBA), 5555 Bankers Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 714.

David Boneno, LBA, 5555 Bankers Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 714.

Representative Newell offered a motion to voluntary defer action on House Bill No. 714, to which Representative Green offered a substitute motion to involuntary defer action on House Bill No. 714. Representative Green's motion was not entertained.

Representative McCormick offered a motion to report House Bill No. 714 unfavorably. After discussion and clarification, Representative McCormick withdrew his motion. Representative McCormick offered a motion to report House Bill No. 714 without action. However, because amendments were adopted on this instrument, the motion was incorrect. Representative McCormick offered a motion to report House Bill No. 714 with amendments, to which, Representative Riser, objected. The administrative assistant called the roll and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 2 yeas, 16 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives McCormick and McMakin voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted nay. Representative Deshotel abstained.

Representative Newell's original motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 714 was then taken up. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 714 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, 1 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 714 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 716 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 716, which provides for universal recognition of occupational licenses.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hilferty, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McMakin, Mena, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Hilferty offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Require an applicant to prove residency in this state.
- (3) Provide what qualifies as proof of residency.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Cox, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McMakin, Mena, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Hilferty offered amendments that originated in committee based on the previously adopted amendments to:

- (1) Include a state-issued voter registration card as proof of residency.
- (2) Remove a utility bill and documentation of ownership or current lease of residence in the state as proof of residency.
- (3) Clarify that documentation of current in-state employment of the applicant or his spouse qualifies for the residency requirement. If an applicant uses this method to obtain licensure, a board shall require another form of proof of residency listed in proposed law six months after licensure is granted.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Cox, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McMakin, Mena, Riser, and St. Blanc voted yea.

Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 900 N. Third St., Baton Rouge LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 716.

Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 716.

Representative Green offered amendments that originated in committee based on the previously adopted amendment to add proof of current homestead exemption in the state as an option to prove residency. Representative Green offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to add that nothing in proposed law shall prevent this state from entering into a professional national mobility agreement. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Newell offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Clarify that to obtain a license or certification, a person shall provide proof of all of the items listed in proposed law upon application.

- (3) Change the language "similar" scope of practice to "the same" scope of practice determined by the board.
- (4) Remove language that states that nothing in this Chapter shall prevent this state from recognizing occupational credentials issued by private certification organizations, foreign province, foreign country, international organization, or other entity.

Representative Newell offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Riser objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 12 nays. Representatives Boyd, Green, Jordan, Knox, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Hebert, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted nay.

Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt three-minute rule for the remainder of the meeting. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Knox, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

David Zoller, Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants, 3850 N. Causeway Blvd., Ste. 1650 Metairie, LA 70002, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 716.

Scott Landry, Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board (LAPELS), 8550 United Plaza Blvd. Ste., 103, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 716.

Donna Sentell, LAPELS, 9643 Brookline Ave., Ste. 121, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 716.

Lisa Loup, Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, 850 Newman Ave., Jefferson, LA 70121, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 716.

Daryn Bovard, Louisiana Arborist Association (LAA), 506 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 716.

Scott Courtright, LAA, 506 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 716.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 716 with amendments, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 716 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Boyd and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support, 8 in opposition, 4 for information only, and 1 designee of elected official.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 716 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

The committee recessed at 1:59 p.m. The committee reconvened at 2:16 p.m.

House Bill No. 753 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel announced that action on House Bill No. 753, which provides relative to licensure of plumbers, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 333 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 333, which provides relative to application fees paid for leasing residential property.

Sarah Whittington, Justice and Accountability Center, 4035 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Bill No. 333.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 N. Sixth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 333.

Bruce Reilly, Voice Of The Experienced (VOTE), 4930 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Bill No. 333.

Benjamin Zucker, Step Up Louisiana, 2022 St. Bernard Ave., New Orleans, LA 7011, spoke in support of House Bill No. 333.

Earl Hagans, 3849 N. Timbers Ct., Harvey, LA 70058, spoke in support of House Bill No. 333.

Tammy Sponge, The Apartment Association of Louisiana (APTLA), 3017 Harvard Ave., Ste. 201, Metairie, LA 70006, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 333.

Jim Rather, APTLA, 3017 Harvard Ave., Ste. 201, Metairie, LA 70006, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 333.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 333 with amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 9 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Boyd, Cox, Domangue, Green, Jordan, Knox, Mena, Newell, and Riser voted yea. Representatives Deshotel, Carver, Davis, Hebert, Hilferty, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted nay.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 333. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 333 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

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. 333 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 239 by Representative Jordan

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 239, which allows certain financial institutions to act as fiscal agents. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 239 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 19 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

House Bill No. 301 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 301, which provides relative to cosmetology licensing requirements.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Green, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 301 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 301 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 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 Davis offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Boyd, Carver, Cox, Davis, Domangue, Hebert, Hilferty, Jordan, Knox, Jacob Landry, McCormick, McMakin, Mena, Newell, Riser, St. Blanc, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Daryl Andrew Deshotel
House Committee on Commerce

Date adopted: