

House Select Committee on Homeland Security

Minutes of Meeting
2024-2025 Interim
September 25, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jack "Jay" William Gallé, Jr., chair of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Jack "Jay" William Gallé, Jr., chair
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Raymond J. Crews
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Peter F. Egan, Sr.
Representative Brett F. Geymann
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Charles Anthony Owen, vice chair
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Josh Carlson
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Adrian Fisher
Representative Larry Selders

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Drew Murray, legislative analyst
Natayveon Howard-Williams, committee administrative assistant
Sarah Baker, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Ralph Palner, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

Adoption of minutes of the May 28, 2024, meeting of the committee in the 2024 Regular Session

Representative Gallé offered a motion to adopt the minutes. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gallé, Amedée, Crews, Edmonston, Egan, Geymann, Kerner, Knox, Owen, Riser, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

Receive testimony from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency preparedness regarding:

- a. After-action report on and lessons learned from the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- b. The status of the public health emergency plan called for in R.S. 29:764
- c. Other state policies for addressing public health emergencies including but not limited to those provided for in the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, R.S. 29:760 et seq.

Jacques Thibodeaux, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency (GOHSEP), 7667 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only and provided handouts labeled "COVID19 - Initial Response Phase", which is included as Exhibit A in the committee records and "Unified Command Group Situational Briefing", which is included as Exhibit B in the committee records.

Review of state government actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as requested by House Resolution No. 133 of the 2024 Regular Session

Richard Bartlett, M.D., 349 Bartlett Road, Crane, TX 79731, spoke for information only and provided a handout labeled "COVID-19 Revelations & Recommendations", which is included as Exhibit C in the committee records.

Receive testimony from invited speakers regarding public health policies and strategies implemented in other states in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Representative Owen distributed to the committee a handout from Aaron Siri, 745 5th Avenue, Unit 500, New York, NY 10151, who spoke for information only on the handout labeled "Lessons Learned: COVID-19", which is included as Exhibit D in the committee records.

Joseph Freiman, no address provided, New Orleans, Louisiana, spoke for information only.

Receive testimony from the public regarding state government actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Dr. Holly Groh, 427 Exposition Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke for information only and provided handouts labeled "Louisiana Department of Health", which is included as Exhibit E in the committee records and "Professional expectations regarding medical misinformation and disinformation", which is included as Exhibit F in the committee records.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Wiley offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gallé, Crews, Edmonston, Egan, Geymann, Knox, McCormick, Owen, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Jack "Jay" William Gallé, Jr.
House Select Committee on Homeland Security

Date adopted: