

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 18, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry, chair of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry, chair
Representative Michael Robert "Mike" Bayham, Jr.
Representative Beth Anne Billings
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg, vice chair
Representative Steven Jackson
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Matthew Willard
Representative Rashid Armand Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Joseph A. Stagni

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Blake Byrom, legislative analyst
Natayveon Howard-Williams, committee administrative assistant
Sarah Baker, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Burnell Thompson, III, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Owen offered a motion to enact a three-minute rule for questions from committee members and testimony from witnesses. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 142 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 142, which provides for the term of certain lease agreements entered into by the Iberia Economic Development Authority.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 142 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 142 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Young 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.

House Bill No. 881 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 881, which provides relative to the membership of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana.

Peggy Feehan, Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), 112 Green Meadow, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 881.

Burnell Lemoine, CODOFIL, 1420 Saint John, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in support of House Bill No. 881.

Amanda LaFleur, CODOFIL, 411 Montrose Avenue, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in support of House Bill No. 881.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments relative to the four appointments of the Louisiana Consortium for Immersion Schools, to require that they reside east or west of the Atchafalaya River rather than being from immersion schools east or west of the river.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to restore existing law references to the Louisiana Educational Television Authority.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 881 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 881 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 353 by Representative Geymann

Representative Geymann presented House Bill No. 353, which authorizes golf carts to cross certain Louisiana highways within the city of Westlake.

Jacques Berry, Department of Transportation and Development, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 353.

Representative Farnum offered amendments to make changes to certain street crossings.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 353 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 353 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 807 by Representative Fontenot

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 807, which establishes service award eligibility for all qualified firefighters.

Chief Bryan J. Adams, state fire marshal, 8181 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 807.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 807 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 807 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Willard, and Young 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.

House Bill No. 739 by Representative Fontenot

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 739, which provides relative to certain officers, employees, and positions in the classified fire and police civil service.

Adrienne Bordelon, office of state examiner, Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service, 7722 Office Park Boulevard, Suite #500, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 739.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 739 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 739 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 313 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 313, which provides relative to employment discrimination against certain employees being treated with medical marijuana.

Danny Ford, Louisiana Association for Therapeutic Alternatives, 532 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 313.

John Alexander Martin, 15155 Point Chenier, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in support of House Bill No. 313.

Jacob Irving, 18541 Bay Ridge Court, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in support of House Bill No. 313.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 313 favorably, to which Representative Farnum objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 313 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea. Representatives Bayham, Farnum, and Fontenot voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 323 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 323, which provides relative to a travel allowance for members of the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish.

LaMont Cole, Metropolitan Council Baton Rouge, 222 Saint Louis Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 323.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 323 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 323 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 555 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 555, which provides relative to certain bid requirements for garbage collection contracts.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to:

1. Provide for the definition of exclusive franchise.
2. Remove provisions of proposed law that require parishes and municipalities in which residents are not allowed to select their own garbage collection service to follow the public bid law when awarding garbage collection contracts.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 555 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 555 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 596 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 596, which provides relative to the election of home rule charter commissions.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 596.

Dannie Garrett, Dannie P. Garrett, III, Attorney at Law, LLC, 635 Main Street, Suite #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 596.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 596 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 596 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 927 by Representative Selders

Representative Selders presented House Bill No. 927, which provides with respect to certain permits required by parishes and municipalities.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 927.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 927 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 927 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 903 by Representative Newell

Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 903, which provides relative to the position of museum director for the Louisiana State Museum.

Suzanne Haik Terrell, Louisiana State Museum, 303 Rue Saint Peter, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in support of House Bill No. 903.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to allow for fewer than three nominations from the search committee.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 903 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 903 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Willard, and Young 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.

House Bill No. 650 by Representative Fisher

Representative Fisher presented House Bill No. 650, which authorizes the city of Monroe to expropriate property by declaration.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 650 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 650 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Moore, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 635 by Representative Bagley

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 635, which authorizes Caddo Parish Fire District No. Six to levy a sales and use tax.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to require the tax proposition to appear on a ballot at an election conducted in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code and held on a date that corresponds with the dates of either gubernatorial or congressional elections.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Moore, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to authorize use of other election dates in 2025. Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Moore, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 635 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 635 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Moore, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 575 by Representative Hughes

Representative Hughes presented House Bill No. 575, which provides relative to the membership of the Orleans Parish Communications District.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 575 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 575 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Moore, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 561 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 561, which provides for a Lafitte Greenway Economic Development District.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 561 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 561 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Marcelle, Moore, Owen, and Young voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 690 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 690, which provides relative to the Melrose East Crime Prevention District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 690 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 690 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Marcelle, Moore, Owen, and Young voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 255 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 255, which provides relative to the classified police service in the city of Leesville.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 255 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 255 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Marcelle, Moore, Owen, Willard, and Young 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Cox offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Marcelle, Moore, Owen, Willard, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Foy Bryan Gadberry
House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Date adopted: