

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 17, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Brett F. Geymann, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Brett F. Geymann, chairman
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Tehmi Jahi Chassion
Representative Kimberly Landry Coates
Representative Jason Brian Dewitt
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Jacob Jules Gabriel Landry
Representative Shane Mack
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron, vice chairman
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Jerome Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robin Stalder, attorney
Benjamin Westra, attorney
Lacy Slaughter, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 by Representative Orgeron**

Representative Orgeron presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 64, which creates the Clean Hydrogen Task Force.

Lindsay Cooper, Clean Air Task Force, 114 State Street, Boston, MA 01109, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 64.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 11 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Senate Bill No. 211 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Bill No. 211, which provides for size limits for spotted sea trout and red drum.

Cole Garrett, LDWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 211.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 211 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 211 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 14 by Senator Hensgens

Senator Hensgens presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 14, which requests the United States Department of Energy to carefully consider the benefits of liquid natural gas exports.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 14 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 14 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 5 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Senate Bill No. 503 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Bill No. 503, which provides for air monitoring.

Brian Landry, LA Chemical Association, 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of Senate Bill No 503.

Daniel Bosch, LCA, 400 Convention Street, Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 503.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add federal ambient air quality surveillance provisions contained in 40 CFR Part 58 as science-based standards community air monitoring programs conducting monitoring of criteria air pollutants must use.
- (3) Remove references to the most current Environmental Protection Agency-approved emission testing and monitoring methods and instead simply require an Environmental Protection Agency-approved emission test or monitoring method.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Kimberly Terrell, Alliance for Affordable Energy, 6329 Freret Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 503.

Kathy Rhorer Wascom, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, 1255 Aberdeen, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 503.

Caitlion Hunter, Rise St. James, no address provided, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 503.

Peter I. Cazeaux, LDEQ, 601 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 503.

Representative Dewitt offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 503 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 503 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, and 7 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

House Bill No. 276 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 276, which requires that carbon dioxide sequestration activity comply with local land use planning.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 276. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 276 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, 13 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 276 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 169 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 169, which provides relative to liability and damages resulting from carbon sequestration.

Tommy Faucheux, LMOGA, 730 North, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 169.

Bryan Hanks, LOGA, LABI, BETA Land, 114 Kings Walk, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 169.

Mike Moncla, Louisiana Oil & Gas Association, 1331 Lakeridge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 169.

Representative Bryant offered amendments to:

- (1) Reinstatement of limitations on civil liability for noneconomic damages related to carbon dioxide sequestration.
- (2) Increase the general limitation on noneconomic damages from \$250,000 to \$500,000.
- (3) Change all limits on noneconomic damages related to carbon dioxide sequestration from per occurrence limits to per person limits.

Representative Bryant offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick and Orgeron, voted yea.

Representative Bryant offered a motion to report House Bill No. 169 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 169 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Riser voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, 11 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 169 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 729 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 729, which removes eminent domain authority for carbon dioxide sequestration.

Bryan Hanks, LOGA, LABI, LMOGA, BETA Land Services, 114 Kings Walk, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 729.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 729. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 729 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Riser voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, 12 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 729 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 by Senator Mizell

Senator Mizell presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3, which memorializes Congress to enact reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate deployment of new energy infrastructure.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, and Orgeron voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Senate Bill No. 71 by Senator Cloud

On behalf of Senator Cloud, Representative Carrier presented Senate Bill No. 71, which authorizes the transfer of certain state property in Allen Parish.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 71 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 71 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Jacob Landry, Mack, and Orgeron voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Carrier offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, Jacob Landry, Mack, and Orgeron voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Brett F. Geymann
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: