

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 7, 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 9:35 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 Jeremy S. LaCombe
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:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Concurrent Resolution No. 49 by Representative Thompson**

Representative Thompson presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 49, which commends and expresses support for the cooperative conservation and management work being carried out by agricultural conservation partnerships in the state.

Doug Daigle, LA Hypoxia Working Group, Rm. 1145, Energy, Coast, Env. Bldg. - LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 49.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 49 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 49 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, 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: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Senate Bill No. 441 by Senator Harris

On behalf of Senator Harris, Randy Haynie, Haynie & Assoc., 1465 Ted Dunham Avenue, no city, state, or zip code provided, presented Senate Bill No. 441, which provides for the transfer of certain state property in Orleans Parish.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove the repeal of the termination of the state's authority to make a direct sale.
- (2) Extend the state's authority to make a direct sale from June 30, 2024, to June 30, 2028.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 441 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 441 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 418 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Bill No. 418, which authorizes the transfer of certain state property in Ascension Parish.

Cheston Hill, DOA/OSL, 1201 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 418.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 418 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 418 was reported favorably 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: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

House Resolution No. 130 by Representative Dewitt

Representative Dewitt presented House Resolution No. 130, which urges and requests the La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to find ways to increase youth use of Wildlife Management Areas.

Cole Garrett, LDWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 130.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 130 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 130 was reported favorably 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: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Senate Bill No. 432 by Senator Edmonds

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 432, which provides relative to the capital area groundwater conservation district.

Representative Dewitt offered a motion to adopt the three-minute rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Orgeron, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Brian Landry, LA Chemical Association, 301 Main Street, Suite 2040, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 432.

Douglas Melancon, ExxonMobil, 4045 Scenic Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 432.

Patrick Kerr, Baton Rouge Water, P.O. Box 96016, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 432.

Jody Montelaro, Entergy, 446 N. Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 432.

Gary Beard, Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District, no street address provided, Baton Rouge, no state or zip code provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 432, presented a chart, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Murphy Foster, Capital Area Groundwater, P.O. Box 3197, Baton Rouge, LA, no zip code provided, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Representative Riser offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Change the board's authority to install their own flow meters to permissive.
- (3) Change instances of "flow measurement devices" to "flow meters" throughout the bill.

Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Jacob Landry objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas, 8 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, and McCormick voted nay. Representative Geymann abstained.

Valarie Black, The Water Institute, 1100 S. River Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 432.

Alyssa Dausman, The Water Institute, 1100 S. River Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 432.

Karen Gautreaux, The Nature Conservancy, P.O. Box 4125, no city, state, or zip code provided, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Edgar Cage, Together Baton Rouge/Together LA, 1520 Thomas Delpit Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Ronald Perritt, 5156 Mimosa Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Robin Moulder, 9265 Bermuda Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Kathy Wascom, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, 1255 Aberdeen, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Martha Davis, 6922 E. Upland Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70812, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Tara Wicker, The W, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA, no zip code provided, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 432 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 432 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 10 in support, and 18 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 432 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25 by Senator Hodges

Senator Hodges presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25, which creates the Comite River Diversion Canal/Amite River Basin Task Force.

Tori Hymel, 33650 Beverly Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70706, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 411 by Senator Kleinpeter

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Bill No. 411, which requires the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries to notify applicants for recreational fishing and hunting licenses of the option to become an organ and tissue donor and make an organ donation.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 411 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 411 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Jacob Landry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: