

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 16, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Debbie Villio, chair
Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur, vice chair
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Joy Walters
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zachary Gonzalez, attorney
Dave Storment, attorney
Andrea Jerezano, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Michael McCain, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 23 by Representative Muscarello

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 23, which provides relative to post-sentence statements and documents. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 23 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 394 by Representative Muscarello

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 394, which provides relative to procedures in capital cases. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 394 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 79 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 79, which provides relative to the applicability of firearm enhancement provisions and penalties to plea agreements.

Christopher Walters, deputy executive counsel to Governor Landry, State Capitol, 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke as the designee of the governor in support of House Bill No. 79.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 79 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 79 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative LaFleur in the chair.

House Bill No. 208 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 208, which provides relative to eligibility for parole or diminution of sentence.

Checo Yancy, VOTE, 251 Florida Street #201, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 208.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 208 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 208 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, 5 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 214 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 214, which provides relative to revocation of probation.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 214.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 214 favorably, to which Representative Walters objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 214 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea. Representative Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, 9 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 445 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 445, which provides relative to juvenile records.

Rev. Alexis Anderson, 248 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 445.

Katie Hunter-Lowrey, Vera Louisiana, 2021 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 445.

Renee Carthan, Daughters Beyond Incarceration, 2129 OC Holey, New Orleans, LA 70113, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 445.

Lauren Hall, Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, 1100-B Milton Street, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 445.

Tiye Davis, Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, 1100-B Milton Street, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 445.

Chandra Shae Foster, Southern Poverty Law Center, 201 St. Charles, New Orleans, LA 70170, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 445.

Michael Cahoon, The Promise of Justice Initiative, 1024 Elysian Fields Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 445.

Cree Matlock, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, 7389 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 445.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 445 favorably, to which Representative Knox objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 445 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Moore, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, 13 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Villio in the chair.

House Bill No. 479 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 479, which provides relative to witness or victim notification.

Chris Walters, deputy executive counsel to Governor Landry, State Capitol, 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke as the designee of the governor in support of House Bill No. 479.

Jill Dennis, vice president, Louisiana Victim Action Network, 723 S. Dupre, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 479.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 479 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 479 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, 1 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice