

## **House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice**

Minutes of Meeting  
2025 Regular Session  
April 23, 2025

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 10:01 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 Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Joy Walters

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

#### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Michael McCain, clerk  
Harry Mulcahy, clerk  
Ralph Palmer, sergeant at arms  
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

### III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

#### **House Bill No. 12 by Representative Schlegel**

Representative Schlegel presented House Bill No. 12, which provides relative to the sale of consumable hemp products.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered amendments to make technical changes and change the fine for selling consumable hemp to a minor from \$1,000-\$2,000 to \$500-\$1,000. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Adam Peak, Bella Sunrise Smokeshop, 6010 Jones Creek Road, Suite D, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 12.

Anthony J. Landry, Veterans Action Council, 805 Genevieve Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 12, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 12 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 12 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 1 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 12.

#### **House Bill No. 101 by Representative Muscarello**

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 101, which provides relative to compensation for wrongful conviction and imprisonment.

Elizabeth Murrill, attorney general, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 101.

Representative Villio offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Jarvis Ballard, Innocence Project New Orleans, 2824 Acorn Drive, Violet, LA 70092, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 101.

Meredith Angelson, Innocence Project New Orleans, 4051 Allen Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 101.

Reginald Adams, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 101.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 101 by substitute, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 101 was reported by substitute by a vote of 7 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Adams, Knox, LaFleur, and Moore voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 20 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 572 by Representative Glorioso**

Representative Glorioso presented House Bill No. 572, which provides relative to post conviction relief.

Elizabeth Murrill, attorney general, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Representative Villio offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

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. 572.

Wayne Guzzardo, 26017 Shadowbrook Avenue, Denham Springs, LA 70726, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Tony Clayton, district attorney, 18th JDC, 3741 LA Highway 1 South, Port Allen, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Zachary T. Daniels, executive director, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808-9042, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to the substitute bill to remove the requirement that a petition for post conviction relief shall be conducted as a civil proceeding and subject to the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, and Moore voted yea.

Ronald Marshall, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Glenn Davis, Innocence Project New Orleans, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Jee Park, IPNO, 4051 Ulloa Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Zac Crawford, Innocence Project New Orleans, 4051 Ulloa Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Malcolm Alexander, 4051 Ulloa Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Kathryn Jakuback, Longman Jakuback APLC, 830 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Cecelia Kappel, Loyola Center for Social Justice, 7214 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 572 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 572 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 14 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 260 by Representative Villio**

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 260, which provides relative to second degree murder. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 260 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, and Wiley voted yea.

**House Bill No. 492 by Representative Ventrella**

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 492, which provides relative to cruelty to animals. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 492 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, and Wiley voted yea.

**House Bill No. 23 by Representative Muscarello**

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 23, which provides relative to post-sentence statements and documents.

Representative Villio offered amendments to make technical changes and to require the law enforcement agency to use the Integrated Criminal Justice Information System to electronically submit the documents required by Code of Criminal Procedure Article 892. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Christopher Walters, State Capitol, 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 23.

Natalie LaBorde, office of the attorney general, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 23.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 23 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 23 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 4 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 49 by Representative Melerine**

Representative Melerine presented House Bill No. 49, which provides relative to the confidentiality of records from certain hearings of the Board of Pardons and committee on parole.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.

- (2) Clarify that it is unlawful to disseminate the testimony presented by a victim, or the spouse or next of kin of a deceased victim, during an executive session of the Board of Pardons and committee on parole rather than testimony presented by a victim who is a minor or a victim of a sex offense.
- (3) Remove the proposed law definition for "live-stream".
- (4) Change the term "hearing" to "recording" in proposed law.
- (5) Amend present law provisions relative to pardon and parole to clarify that the victim, or the spouse or next of kin of a deceased victim, shall be allowed to present testimony in executive session at his request.
- (6) Delete the proposed law definition for "documented hearing".
- (7) Clarify that testimony presented by any victim, or the spouse or next of kin of a deceased victim, during an executive session of the Board of Pardons and committee on parole is confidential and not subject to the Public Records Law rather than testimony presented by a victim who is a minor or a victim of a sex offense.
- (8) Change the term "documented hearing" to "testimony" within proposed law.
- (9) Clarify that only the Nineteenth Judicial District may order disclosure of any testimony presented during executive session of the Board of Pardons and committee on parole.
- (10) Add the presentation of testimony from the victim, or the spouse or next of kin of a deceased victim, during the portion of any meeting or hearing of the Board of Pardons and Committee on Parole as a reason that the board or committee may enter into executive session.

Maggie Grace Danna, 14951 Royal Glen Trace, Conroe, TX 77302, spoke in support of House Bill No. 49.

Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Grace Anne Blake, 269 Preston Avenue, Shreveport, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 49.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 49 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 49 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 394 by Representative Muscarello**

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 394, which provides relative to procedures in capital cases.

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. 394.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 394 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 394 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, 2 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 292 by Representative Knox**

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 292, which provides relative to jury polling and disposition.

Brad Scott, Orleans DA Office, 619 S. White Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 292.

Glenn Ansardi, Louisiana District Judges Association, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 292.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 292 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 292 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 363 by Representative Cox**

Representative Cox presented House Bill No. 363, which provides relative to cruelty and exploitation of the elderly.

David Boneno, Louisiana Bankers Association, 5555 Bankers Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 363.

Representative Cox offered a technical amendment. Representative Cox offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 363 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 363 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

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

#### **House Bill No. 540 by Representative Fontenot**

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 540, which provides relative to video poker.

Representative Fontenot offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Amend R.S. 27:437 to allocate tax revenue to the Video Draw Poker Device Purse Supplement Fund.
- (3) Add R.S. 27:439.1 to create the Video Draw Poker Device Purse Supplement Fund and allocate money to the fund for certain purposes.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Fontenot offered amendments to change the requirements that a restaurant or bar shall meet to add a fourth machine and remove the requirement that the gaming enforcement section remove a machine if the location falls under a certain net device revenue. Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.



Representative Fontenot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 540 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 540 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio  
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice