

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 29, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 10:07 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
Ross Richard, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Michael McCain, clerk
Harry Mulcahy, clerk
Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 35 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 35, which provides for a minimum mandatory sentence for certain hit and run driving offenses.

Lauren C. Heinen, 31st Judicial District Attorney's Office, 300 North State Street, Jennings, LA 70546, spoke in support of House Bill No. 35.

Lee Hughes, 401 Benoit Street, Welsh, LA 70591, spoke in support of House Bill No. 35.

Representative Fontenot offered amendments to make technical changes and to add that the driver's vehicle was directly involved in the accident. Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, P.O. Box 83, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 35.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 35 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 35 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 141 by Representative Hughes

Representative Hughes presented House Bill No. 141, which provides relative to the discharge of bail obligations.

Stephen Adams, Association of Louisiana Bail Underwriters, no address provided, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 141.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 141 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 141 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, 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. 176 by Representative Firment

Representative Firment presented House Bill No. 176, which provides relative to regulation of certain hallucinogenic chemicals.

Steven McCain, Grant Parish Sheriff, 205 Cypress Street, Colfax, LA 71417, spoke in support of House Bill No. 176.

Representative Fontenot offered amendments to make technical changes and to remove the definition of "analog". Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 176.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 176 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 176 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, 2 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 100 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 100, which provides relative to bail bond enforcement.

Stephen Adams, Association of Louisiana Bail Underwriters, no address provided, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 100.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 100 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 100 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 143 by Representative Mena

Representative Mena presented House Bill No. 143, which provides relative to notice of warrant for arrest.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report House Bill No. 143 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 143 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 375 by Representative McMahan

Representative McMahan presented House Bill No. 375, which provides for fraudulent banking transactions.

David Boneno, Louisiana Bankers Association, 5555 Bankers Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 375.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report House Bill No. 375 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 375 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 234 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 234, which provides relative to criminal blighting of property.

David Shanks, Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, 619 South White Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 234.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 234 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 234 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 403 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 403, which provides for the imposition of fines for driving offenses.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered an amendment to make technical changes. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the

amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

On behalf of the author, Representative Adams offered amendments to add an additional penalty of five dollars to speeding violations and to add an additional penalty of ten dollars to drag racing violations. Representative Adams offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Paige Hargrove, Louisiana Emergency Response Network, 7979 Independence Boulevard, Suite 207, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 403.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 403 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 403 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 388 by Representative Illg

Representative Illg presented House Bill No. 388, which provides relative to the amount the Department of Public Safety and Corrections pays for the housing of state inmates in a parish jail or institution.

Kevin Cobb, Executive Director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, spoke in support of House Bill No. 388.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to remove an outdated provision requiring the department to meet certain requirements by December 31, 2020. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Bill No. 388.

Representative Villio offered a motion to reconsider the vote on the previously adopted amendment. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Villio offered a motion to withdraw the previously adopted amendment. Without objection, the amendment was withdrawn by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yeas.

Representative Knox offered an amendment to remove the deadline for certain duties of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections. Representative Knox offered a motion to adopt the amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yeas.

Will Harrell, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, 2806 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 388.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 388 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 388 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 14 by Representative Cox

Representative Cox presented House Bill No. 14, which provides relative to homicide when the victim is a person with infirmities.

Darren Allemand, Jefferson Parish Assistant District Attorney, 200 Derbigny Street, Gretna, LA 70053, spoke in support of House Bill No. 14.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, P.O. Box 83, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 14.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 14 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 14 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 14.

House Bill No. 67 by Representative Horton

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 67, which provides relative to sex offenses committed against minors.

Darren Allemand, Jefferson Parish Assistant District Attorney, 200 Derbigny Street, Gretna, LA 70053, spoke in support of House Bill No. 67.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, P.O. Box 83, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 67.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 67 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 67 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 146 by Representative Wiley

Representative Wiley presented House Bill No. 146, which provides relative to the Habitual Offender Law.

Darren Allemand, Jefferson Parish Assistant District Attorney, 200 Derbigny Street, Gretna, LA 70053, spoke in support of House Bill No. 146.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 146.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 146 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 146 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative LaFleur in the chair.

House Bill No. 111 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 111, which provides relative to the unlawful presence of certain sex offenders.

Captain Adam Johnson, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office, 204 Burt Boulevard, Benton, LA 71006, spoke in support of House Bill No. 111.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, P.O. Box 83, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 111.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 111.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 111 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 111 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 260 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 260, which provides relative to second degree murder.

W. Claire Howington, 16th Judicial District Attorney's Office, 300 Iberia Street, Suite 200, New Iberia, LA 70560, spoke in support of House Bill No. 260.

Representative Villio offered amendments to make technical changes and remove a provision of proposed law that provided an additional circumstance of second degree murder for the killing of a human when the offender is in, or has escaped from, the lawful custody of a law enforcement officer or a place of lawful confinement, even though the offender has no intent to kill or inflict great bodily harm. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted yea.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 260 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 260 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Villio in the chair.

House Bill No. 492 by Representative Ventrella

Representative Ventrella presented House Bill No. 492, which provides relative to cruelty to animals.

On behalf of the author, Representative Boyer offered amendments to add an animal shelter or rescue location as an area where a person may deliver an animal which he found running at large and to clarify that an element of aggravated cruelty to animals is when a person fails to provide proper veterinary care which results in the animal's death. Representative Boyer offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted 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.

Representative Boyer offered a technical amendment. Representative Boyer offered a motion to adopt the amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted 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.

Charlotte Farshian, Ouachita Parish District Attorney's Office, 400 St. John Street, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke in support of House Bill No. 492.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 492 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 492 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, 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. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice