

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 16, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Brett F. Geymann, chair 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, chair
Representative Jacob Braud
Representative R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Kimberly Landry Coates
Representative Jason Brian DeWitt
Representative Jessica Domangue
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 chair
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Lauren Ventrella

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Jerome Zeringue

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robin Stalder, attorney
Jennifer Winkler, legislative analyst
Brandy Ladmirault, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Cesilee Oliver, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 550 by Representative Kerner**

Representative Kerner presented House Bill No. 550, which provides for reporting, data collection, and information sharing related to domestic and imported seafood.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, 3rd Floor, Capitol, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 550.

Representative Geymann offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Ventrella voted yea.

Representative Dewitt offered a motion to report House Bill No. 550 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 550 was reported by substitute by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Ventrella voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 173 by Representative Illg

Representative Illg presented House Bill No. 173, which provides relative to expanding the jurisdiction of state park wardens to enforce litter laws statewide.

Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, Lt. Governor's Office, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 173.

Julia George Moore, designee on behalf of Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 173.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to:

- (1) Authorize the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to bring a civil action to recover penalties for intentional and simple littering citations and to promulgate and enforce the rules and regulations necessary to carry out the process.
- (2) Create an adjudicatory hearing process and provides requirements for notice and opportunity and for appeals to the judicial district court.
- (3) Provide for the judgment to become final for debt collection purposes after time for appeals has expired and for the assessment of attorney fees and costs against anyone who is assessed a civil penalty.
- (4) Require that any civil penalties recovered be deposited into the litter abatement account within the Conservation Fund.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Ventrella voted yea.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report House Bill No. 173 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 173 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Riser, and Ventrella voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 605 by Representative Riser

Representative Geymann announced that action on House Bill No. 605, which authorizes a fee for expedited processing performed by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 497 by Representative LaCombe

Representative Geymann announced that action on House Bill No. 497, which provides for the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 581 by Representative Illg

Representative Illg presented House Bill No. 581, which prohibits releasing inflated balloons outdoors and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, Lt. Governor's Office, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 581.

Jarett Daigle, Louisiana Cattlemen's Association, 38003 Duplessis Road, no city or state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 581.

Emily Underhill, Humane Society, 10436 Jefferson Highway, St. George, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 581.

Representative Domangue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 581 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 581 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Ventrella voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 205 by Representative McCormick

Representative McCormick presented House Bill No. 205, which provides for the operation of saltwater disposal wells in the parishes of Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto, Red River, and Webster.

Mike Moncla, LOGA, 1331 Lakeridge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, spoke in support of House Bill No. 205.

Mark S. Moore, Approach Environmental, 1000 Grimmett Drive, Shreveport, LA 71107, spoke in support of House Bill No. 205.

Jordy Babineaux, Approach Environmental. 306 Pine Street, Suite 400, Madisonville, LA 70447, spoke in support of House Bill No. 205.

Brian Sneed, Bulldog Oilfield Services, P.O. Box 52655, Shreveport, LA 71135, spoke in support of House Bill No. 205.

Brandon Taylor, Pinnergy, 2801 Via Fortuna, Suite 440, Austin, TX 78746, spoke in support of House Bill No. 205, presented a map, and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Randy Taylor, Pinnergy, 2801 Via Fortuna, Suite 440, Austin, TX 78746, spoke in support of House Bill No. 205.

Blake Canfield, DENR, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 205.

Representative McCormick offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 205. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 205 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Ventrella voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 219 by Representative Carrier

Representative Carrier presented House Bill No. 219, which provides for deer sex identification requirements.

Cole Garrett, LDWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 219.

Representative Carrier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 219 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 219 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Mack, Orgeron, and Ventrella voted yea.

House Bill No. 604 by Representative Orgeron

Representative Orgeron presented House Bill No. 604, which establishes a red drum tag program.

Glen Cormier, FFI Gulf Council, 281 Miller Road, Boyce, LA 71409, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 604.

Ty Hibbs, representing himself, 2413 Mallard Street, Slidell, LA 70460, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 604.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 604. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 604 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Mack, Orgeron, and Riser voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 204 by Representative Henry

Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 204, which provides relative to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' annual duck stamps.

Cole Garrett, LDWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 204.

Representative Dewitt offered a motion to report House Bill No. 204 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 204 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Mack, Orgeron, Riser, and Ventrella voted yea.

House Bill No. 564 by Representative Jacob Landry

On behalf of Representative Jacob Landry, Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 564, which establishes the Conservation Incentive Program.

Cole Garrett, LDWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 564.

Bryan McClinton, LDWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 564.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Bill No. 564 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 564 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Mack, McCormick, Riser, and Ventrella voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Braud offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Mack, McCormick, Riser, and Ventrella voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: