

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
March 18, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 10:02 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 Doyle Boudreaux
Representative Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Emily Chenevert
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:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zachary Gonzalez, attorney
Dave Storment, attorney
Ross Richard, committee administrative assistant
Rashida Keith, division director

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Amelia Carman, clerk
Anna Kate Jackson, clerk

Marcellus Voveal , sergeant at arms
Janet Anthony , sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 36 by Representative Butler

Representative Butler presented House Bill No. 36, which removes Evangeline Parish as a member of the Acadiana Regional Juvenile Justice District.

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

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Provide for an effective date upon the governor's signature or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

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, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 36 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 36 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 160 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 160, which increases the penalties for certain domestic violence offenses that involve strangulation.

Representative Knox offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Provide that at least one year of the sentence imposed shall be served without the benefit of probation or suspension of sentence for an offender who commits either battery of a dating partner or domestic abuse battery when either offense involves strangulation.

Representative Knox 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, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Brandi Melissa, P.O. Box 1171, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 160.

Edward McGowan, Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, 619 South White Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in support of House Bill No. 160.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 160 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 160 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 160.

House Bill No. 552 by Representative Bryant

On behalf of Representative Bryant, Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 552, which provides relative to driving while intoxicated.

Zachary T. Daniels, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808-9042, spoke in support of House Bill No. 552.

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 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 552 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 552 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 119 by Representative Fontenot

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 119, which provides relative to unlawful conduct involving images of another person created by artificial intelligence.

Representative Fontenot offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Remove possession as unlawful conduct relative to the dissemination or sale of artificial intelligence images as provided in present law (R.S. 14:73.14)
- (3) Change the term "victim" to "depicted person" within the penalty provision for a violation of present law (R.S. 14:73.14) that involves a person under the age of seventeen.
- (4) Create the new crime of unlawful possession of images of another created by artificial intelligence and provide for elements, definitions, exceptions, and penalties.

Representative Fontenot 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, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Joseph Daniels, representing minor daughter, 248 School Lane, Thibodaux, LA 70301, spoke in support of House Bill No. 119.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 750 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 119.

Representative Fontenot offered an amendment to designate proposed law as "The Ivy Daniels Act". Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 119 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 119 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, 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. 140 by Representative Cox

Representative Cox presented House Bill No. 140, which provides relative to the time limitations governing juvenile delinquency proceedings.

Representative Cox offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Provide timelines for the filing of delinquency petitions alleging either a misdemeanor-grade or felony-grade act if a child is not continued in custody prior to adjudication.
- (3) Clarify that a contradictory hearing is required before a court's dismissal of a petition due to the expiration of time limitations.

Representative Cox 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, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Douglas Rushton, Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office, 200 Derbigny Street, Gretna, LA 70053, spoke in support of House Bill No. 140.

Anthony W. Celestine, Calcasieu Parish Office of Juvenile Justice Services, 3615 East Prien Lake Road, Lake Charles, LA 70615, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 140.

Remi Abiodun, Vera, 2021 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 140.

Robin Capps, East Baton Rouge Office of Public Defender, 222 Saint Louis Street, Floor 7, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 140.

Sam Marrone, Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, 1100-B Milton Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 140.

Lauren Hall, Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, 1100-B Milton Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 140.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 750 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 140.

Acquanette Barnes, self, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 140.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 140 with amendments, to which Representative Moore objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 140 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Horton, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, and Moore voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support, 30 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 171 by Representative Spell

Representative Spell presented House Bill No. 171, which provides relative to personal sureties.

Andy Shealy, office of the district attorney, 16th Judicial District, 300 Iberia Street, Suite 200, New Iberia, LA 70560, spoke in support of House Bill No. 171.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 171 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 171 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 68 by Representative Schlegel

Representative Schlegel presented House Bill No. 68, which provides relative to conduct that constitutes disturbing the peace.

Representative Glorioso, co-author of House Bill No. 68, spoke in support of House Bill No. 68.

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

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Provide for location where interruption of any worship service or religious ceremony constitutes disturbing the peace under proposed law.
- (3) Clarify the conduct that constitutes disturbing the peace under proposed law.
- (4) Change the minimum amount of imprisonment to be served without benefit of probation or suspension of sentence from fifteen to thirty days.

- (5) Provide additional penalties for a violation of proposed law when the offender commits simple battery, commits simple criminal damage to property, or is armed with a dangerous weapon.

Representative Villio 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, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Sarah Whittington, American Civil Liberties Union Louisiana, P.O. Box 56157, New Orleans, LA 70156, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 68.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 750 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 68.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to clarify that the interruption has to occur in, rather than at, the locations provided in proposed law in order to constitute a violation of disturbing the peace. 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, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 68 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 68 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 6 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 68.

House Bill No. 289 by Representative Egan

Representative Egan presented House Bill No. 289, which provides relative to the time period between conviction and sentence.

Matthew Caplan, district attorney, 22nd Judicial District Court, 701 North Columbia Street, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of House Bill No. 289.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 750 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 289.

Zachary T. Daniels, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808-9042, spoke in support of House Bill No. 289.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 289 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 289 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Chenevert, Cox, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 92 by Representative Schlegel

Representative Schlegel presented House Bill No. 92, which provides relative to certain sex offenses.

Darren Allemand, Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office, 200 Derbigny Street, Gretna, LA 70053, spoke in support of House Bill No. 92.

Lindsay Trutle, Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office, 200 Derbigny Street, Gretna, LA 70053, appeared at the witness table in support of House Bill No. 92.

Brandi Melissa, P.O. Box 1171, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, spoke in support of House Bill No. 92.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 92 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 92 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Chenevert, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

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

Vice Chair LaFleur in the chair.

House Bill No. 147 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 147, which provides for the definition of the crime of racketeering.

David Boneno, Louisiana Bankers Association, 5555 Bankers Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 147.

Joe Gendron, Louisiana Bankers Association, 5555 Bankers Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, appeared at the witness table in support of House Bill No. 147.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 147 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 147 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Chenevert, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 56 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 56, which provides relative to the imposition of fines for driving while impaired.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 56 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 56 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support and 1 designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 52 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 52, which provides relative to trial of misdemeanors.

Representative Villio offered amendments to:

- (1) Change the monetary threshold that must be exceeded to invoke a jury trial from \$1,000 to \$2,500.
- (2) Change the maximum financial penalty for a non-jury trial misdemeanor from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Representative Villio 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, Boudreaux, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Zachary T. Daniels, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808-9042, spoke in support of House Bill No. 52.

William Snowden, The Juror Project, 7905 Jahncke Road, New Orleans, LA 70128, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 52 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 52 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 52 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Chair Villio in the chair.

House Bill No. 351 by Representative Fontenot

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 351, which provides relative to the reentry preparation program.

Jonathan Vining, executive counsel, Department of Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 351.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 351 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 351 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in opposition and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 784 by Representative Cox

Representative Cox presented House Bill No. 784, which provides relative to sex offender registration and notification requirements.

Emma DeVillier, Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office, 200 Derbigny Street, Gretna, LA 70053, spoke in support of House Bill No. 784.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 784 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 784 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

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

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Adams offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice