

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
March 31, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 Doyle Boudreaux
Representative Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Emily Chenevert
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur, vice chair
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Alonzo L. Knox

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Riley Fitzmorris, clerk
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 161 by Representative Mack

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 161, which provides relative to bail conditions for defendants alleged to have committed certain human trafficking offenses. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 161 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 995 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 995, which provides relative to the electronic access of videotaped statements of protected persons.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 995 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 995 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, 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.

Vice Chair LaFleur in the chair.

House Bill No. 55 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 55, which provides relative to disclosure of juror information.

Tony Clayton, Eighteenth Judicial District Court, 3741 Louisiana Highway 1 South, Port Allen, LA 70767, spoke in support of House Bill No. 55.

Representative Villio offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove language relative to current or former jurors serving on a grand or petit jury to apply proposed law to all jurors.
- (2) Add that proposed law applies prospectively only.

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

Representative Boudreaux offered a motion to report House Bill No. 55 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 55 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

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

Chair Villio in the chair.

House Bill No. 125 by Representative Horton

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 125, which provides relative to the supervised release of sex offenders.

Jonathan Vining, executive counsel, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 125.

Jennifer Bush, probation and parole, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 125.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered an amendment to clarify the notification provided to sex offenders who are subject to supervised release in accordance with present law. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Jill Dennis, Association of Supervised Ankle Monitor Providers, 723 South Dupre Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 125.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 125 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 125 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 158 by Representative Horton

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 158, which provides relative to technical violations of probation.

Jonathan Vining, executive counsel, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, appeared at the witness table for information only on House Bill No. 158.

Jennifer Bush, probation and parole, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 158.

Sarah Whittington, American Civil Liberties Union, P.O. Box 56157, New Orleans, LA 70156, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 158.

Bruce Reilly, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 158.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 158 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 158 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 6 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 158.

House Bill No. 169 by Representative Horton

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 169, which provides relative to extradition as a condition of probation or parole.

Jonathan Vining, executive counsel, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 169.

Jennifer Bush, probation and parole, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, appeared at the witness table for information only on House Bill No. 169.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 169 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 169 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yeas.

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

House Bill No. 133 by Representative Newell

Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 133, which provides relative to battery of a school teacher.

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

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Require that at least six months of the sentence imposed for commission of an aggravated battery or second degree battery be served without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence if the offender knew or should have known that the victim is a student or school employee.
- (3) Provide that offenses of second degree battery or aggravated battery committed by a student who is under the age of seventeen are governed exclusively by the provisions of present law (Title VIII of the Children's Code).
- (4) Define the terms "student" and "developmental disability".
- (5) Clarify that the battery committed on a school teacher has to produce serious bodily injury, rather than an injury that requires medical attention.
- (6) Provide that an offender who is a student with a developmental disability is subject to misdemeanor delinquency proceedings pursuant to the Children's Code.
- (7) Require the court to order an evaluation of an offender who is a student and who has not previously been evaluated for a developmental disability for the purposes of assisting the court in determining the proper disposition of the offender.
- (8) Remove battery of a teacher from the list of present law felonies that mandate the commitment of a juvenile offender without benefit of probation or suspension of sentence, subject to modification after certain time periods.
- (9) Require that a child who is adjudicated for a felony-grade delinquent act based upon either aggravated battery or second degree battery when the victim is a student or school employee or battery of a school teacher, be committed to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, or to the custody of a secure public or private institution, for confinement in secure placement for not less than six months without benefit of probation or suspension of sentence.

- (10) Require the court to impose a requirement that the child participate in a court-approved counseling program for aggravated battery or second degree battery committed under certain circumstances as well as battery of a school teacher, which may include anger management, abusive behavior intervention groups, or any other type of counseling deemed appropriate by the court.
- (11) Require any costs associated with the counseling program to be borne by the child or a parent, tutor, guardian, or other person who is financially responsible for the care of the child.

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, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted ye.

Vice Chair LaFleur in the chair.

Chair Villio in the chair.

Kimberly McDaniel, 10132 Springvalley Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 133.

Nikita Clark, 3852 Deer Run Lane, Harvey, LA 70058, spoke in support of House Bill No. 133.

Zachary T. Daniels, executive director, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 133.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 133 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 133 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted ye.

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

House Bill No. 821 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 821, which provides for the establishment of the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools within the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 821 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 821 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 399 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 399, which provides relative to temporary release of inmates for limited purposes.

Vice Chair LaFleur in the chair.

Secretary Gary Westcott, Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 399 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee record.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 399.

Amelia Herrera, 251 Florida Street, Suite 400, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 399.

Helen Pope, 1940 Cambronne Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke in support of House Bill No. 399.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 399 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 399 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, LaFleur, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 296 by Representative Knox

On behalf of Representative Knox, Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 296, which repeals the Reentry Advisory Council and Offender Rehabilitation Workforce Development Act.

Jonathan Vining, executive counsel, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 296.

Renee Delouche, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 296.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 296 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 296 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 168 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 168, which creates a transitional reentry program for female parolees.

Chair Villio in the chair.

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

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Repeal present law that established a transitional residential pilot program for female offenders that terminated on August 1, 2024.

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, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Andrew Hundley, Louisiana Parole Project, 319 Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 168.

Mary Beth Derrickson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 168.

Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 168.

Dwight Hudson, Right on Crime, 901 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701, spoke in support of House Bill No. 168.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 168.

Consuela Gaines, Voice of the Experience, 102 Carmel Drive, Lafayette, LA 70501, spoke in support of House Bill No. 168.

Demetricy Moore, Louisiana Parole Project, 319 Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 168.

Christi Cheramie, Louisiana Parole Project, 319 Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 168.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to report House Bill No. 168 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 168 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Chenevert, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 168.

House Bill No. 54 by Representative Fontenot

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 54, which provides relative to alternative conditions for violations of parole.

Francis Abbott, executive director, Louisiana Board of Pardon and Parole, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, appeared at the witness table for information only on House Bill No. 54.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 54 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 54 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 54.

House Bill No. 245 by Representative Fontenot

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 245, which provides relative to medical parole.

Francis Abbott, executive director, Louisiana Board of Pardon and Parole, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, appeared at the witness table for information only on House Bill No. 245.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 245 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 245 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 280 by Representative Fontenot

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 280, which provides for consolidation of certain repetitive parole eligibility language relative to juvenile offenders.

Francis Abbott, executive director, Louisiana Board of Pardon and Parole, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 280.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 280 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 280 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley 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.

Vice Chair LaFleur in the chair.

House Bill No. 191 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 191, which provides relative to credit for prior custody.

Jonathan Vining, executive counsel, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 191.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 191 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 191 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, 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, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Wiley offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice