

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 15, 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 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 Emily Chenevert

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Anna Kate Jackson, clerk
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 656 by Representative Bryant

At the request of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 656, which creates a pilot program that provides certain Department of Public Safety and Corrections programming and services to inmates. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 656 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yeas.

House Bill No. 74 by Representative Echols

Representative Echols presented House Bill No. 74, which creates a "Spectrum Alert" system to assist in locating missing persons with autism spectrum disorder.

Chrisha Pool, 13069 Sevres Street, New Orleans, LA 70129, spoke in support of House Bill No. 74, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 74 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 74 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yeas.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 74.

House Bill No. 1033 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 1033, which provides relative to the definition of "critical infrastructure".

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1033 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1033 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, 1 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 1033.

House Bill No. 1034 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 1034, which authorizes the establishment of temporary protection zones.

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

- (1) Clarify that proposed law does not grant a parish president, mayor, sheriff, chief of police, or chief executive officer of a political subdivision the authority to act in a manner inconsistent with present law (R.S. 40:1796).
- (2) Make technical changes.

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

Sarah Whittington, American Civil Liberties Union, P.O. Box 56157, New Orleans, LA 70156, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1034.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1034 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1034 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, 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, 1 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 59 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 59, which provides relative to the funding of the office of the district public defender in the 19th Judicial District Court.

Kyla Romanach, East Baton Rouge Office of Public Defender, 222 Saint Louis Street, Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 59.

Hillar Moore, East Baton Rouge District Attorney, 222 Saint Louis Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 59.

Remy Starns, State Public Defender, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 59.

Dwight Hudson, East Baton Rouge Metro Council, District 9, 222 Saint Louis Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 59.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 59 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 59 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 175 by Representative Hebert

Representative Hebert presented House Bill No. 175, which provides for a new lottery game to benefit veterans of armed services.

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

- (1) Delete provisions creating a new lottery game to benefit veterans.
- (2) Change the name of the board from the "Veterans Game Board" to the "Veterans Service Grant Board".
- (3) Change the initial chairman of the board from the chief executive officer of the Louisiana Lottery Corporation to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs.
- (4) Delete language relative to the deposit of all generated lottery proceeds into the Fund to instead require a deposit of \$500,000 pursuant to the Constitution of Louisiana.
- (5) Require all unexpended and unencumbered monies to be deposited and credited to the minimum foundation program instead of being returned to the Department of Treasury.
- (6) Make technical changes.

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

Andrew Ward, The Boot, 453 Louisiana Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 175.

Charlton Meginley, Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 175.

Rachel Schwenk, Bastion Community of Resilience, 1901 Mirabeau Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 175.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 175 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 175 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yeas.

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. 568 by Representative Firmont

Representative Firmont presented House Bill No. 568, which provides relative to penalty enhancements for violations of drug free school zones.

Christopher Walters, deputy executive counsel to Governor Landry, Louisiana Capitol Building, Fourth Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as the designee of an elected official in support of House Bill No. 568.

Sarah Whittington, American Civil Liberties Union, P.O. Box 56157, New Orleans, LA 70156, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 568.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 568 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 568 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 525 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Bill No. 525, which provides for the online publication and maintenance of certain data used and compiled by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections. Representative Carpenter provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

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

- (1) Modify format requirements to provide for publishing of reports and data in Microsoft Excel format.

- (2) Change the frequency update of admission, release, and death information from a monthly basis to an annual basis.
- (3) Make technical changes.

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, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yeas.

Mary Patricia Wray, Vera Institute, 711 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 525.

Jonathan Vining, executive counsel, Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 304 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 525.

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

- (1) Remove proposed law relative to the offender census at parish prisons or jails as information required to be published on the Department of Public Safety and Corrections' website.
- (2) Make technical changes.

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, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yeas.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 525 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 525 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 159 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 159, which creates a pretrial incarceration alternative pilot program in Caddo Parish.

Henry Whitehorn, Sr., Sheriff, Caddo Parish, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, LA 71101, spoke in support of House Bill No. 159.

Joshua Williams, Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, LA 71101, spoke in support of House Bill No. 159.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered an amendment to require any electronic monitoring provider who is chosen or contracted with to enforce the provisions of proposed law to comply with the provisions of present law (R.S. 15:571.36 and 571.37). 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, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 159 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 159 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, 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. 1070 by Representative Braud

Representative Braud presented House Bill No. 1070, which provides relative to the Trial Court Case Management Information Fund.

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

- (1) Prohibit the suspension of the special costs provided in present law.
- (2) Prohibit the trial court from waiving, setting aside, or redirecting special costs provided in present law for any other purpose.

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

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1070 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1070 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 364 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 364, which requires police departments to provide notice of illegal discharge of a firearm.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 364 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 364 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, 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.

House Bill No. 167 by Representative Freiberg

At the request of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 167, which provides for the issuance of certain documentation and certification to inmates before their release from incarceration. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 167 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 458 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 458, which provides relative to inmates who participate in work release programs.

Representative Boyer offered a motion to report House Bill No. 458 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 458 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley 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. 255 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 255, which provides relative to wearing masks in public.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered an amendment to change the penalties from two years to up to two years. Representative Villio 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, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Sarah Whittington, American Civil Liberties Union, P.O. Box 56157, New Orleans, LA 70156, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 255.

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 255. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 255 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

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

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 255 at a later meeting held on May 19, 2026. Please check for subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 255.

House Bill No. 330 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 330, which provides relative to the desecration of graves and religious institutions.

Representative Boyer offered a motion to report House Bill No. 330 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 330 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley 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.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice