

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
May 19, 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 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:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Amelia Carman, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 255 by Representative Bayham

This is a continuation of discussion on House Bill No. 255 from an earlier meeting held on April 15, 2026. Please check for prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 255.

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

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, 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.

Zach Daniels, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 255.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 255 by substitute, to which Representative Moore objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 255 was reported by substitute by a vote of 8 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, and Moore voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 378 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 378, which provides relative to using a vehicle to obstruct first responders and law enforcement.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered amendments to remove provisions related to obstructing law enforcement officers. 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.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 378 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 378 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: 4 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1090 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 1090, which provides relative to sentencing for arson of a religious building.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1090 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1090 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: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 272 by Representative Moore

Representative Moore presented House Resolution No. 272, which requests a study on the intersection of parental discipline, allegations of abuse, and the impact of disciplinary avoidance on juvenile delinquency since 2015.

Representative Moore offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 272 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 272 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 yeas.

House Bill No. 479 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 479, which creates the Fiscal Truth in Sentencing Act.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered an amendment to require the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to provide the legislative auditor with quarterly reports of sentencing data. 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, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yeas.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered an amendment to require clerks of court to comply with Children's Code Article 412 when reporting sentencing data to the legislative auditor. 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, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Sarah Whittington, American Civil Liberties Union, P.O. Box 56157, New Orleans, LA 70156, spoke in support of House Bill No. 479.

Debbie D. Hudnall, Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, 10202 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 479.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 479 with amendments, to which Representative Horton objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Adams, Knox, LaFleur, and Moore voted yea. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, and Wiley voted nay.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 99 by Representative Kerner

At the request of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 99, which creates the Louisiana Electronic Monitoring and GPS Oversight Task Force. Without objection, action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 99 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 Resolution No. 278 by Representative Kerner

Representative Kerner presented House Resolution No. 278, which requests the Louisiana Department of Justice to receive input, feedback, and suggestions relative to the framework and efficiency of electronic monitoring laws and regulations.

Mary S. Susie Labry, 850 North 5th Street, Suite 102, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 278.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 278 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 278 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 and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 91 by Representative Chance Henry

At the request of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 91, which creates a task force to study the work release programs administered by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections. Without objection, action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 91 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 Resolution No. 273 by Representative Chance Henry

Representative Chance Henry presented House Resolution No. 273, which creates a task force to study the work release programs administered by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 273 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 273 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 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 135 by Senator Mizell

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 135, which provides relative to the dedication of revenue from sports wagering.

There was no further discussion on Senate Bill No. 135, and no motion was offered on Senate Bill No. 135.

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

Senate Bill No. 448 by Senator Luneau

On behalf of Senator Luneau, Tiffany Simpson, office of the state public defender, 301 Main Street, Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, presented Senate Bill No. 448, which provides relative to the office of the state public defender.

Representative Villio offered amendments to:

- (1) Clarify that the proposed law prohibition relative to payment of funds for expert witnesses applies unless the person makes an application in accordance with present law (R.S. 15:175(A)).
- (2) Authorize the fixing of a closed, ex parte contradictory hearing if the district public defender or state public defender declines the application for expert witness funding and require that all recordings and transcripts of the contradictory hearing be sealed.
- (3) Require the court to make specific findings and for an applicant to demonstrate, by a preponderance of the evidence, certain criteria relative to mandating the payment of an expert witness fee.
- (4) Provide that the findings and ruling of the court are subject to immediate interlocutory review by the appellate court of competent jurisdiction.
- (5) Make technical changes.

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.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 448 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 448 was reported with amendments 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: 2 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 100 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 100, which requests the Louisiana Gaming Control Board to approve the sale of a casino property only under certain circumstances.

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

- (1) Remove requests for economic plans, stakeholder meetings, public hearings, and reports to the legislature regarding the potential sale of Sam's Town Hotel and Casino to Bally's Corporation.

- (2) Provide that the legislature supports potential sales and acquisitions of gaming facilities that will have a positive economic impact on the region.

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.

Wade Duty, Louisiana Casino Association, P.O. Box 3801, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, withdrew his opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 100 following the adoption of the amendments.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 100 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 100 was reported with amendments 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: 1 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 278 by Senator Edmonds

At the request of the author, Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 278, which prohibits the reinstatement of a driver's license suspended for driving under the influence without the installation of an ignition interlock device. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 278 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Fontenot, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 261 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 261, which provides for exceptions to abortion laws relative to rape and certain sex offenses.

Yvonne Mitchell-Grubb, 2625 Holiday Drive, New Orleans, LA 70131, spoke in support of House Bill No. 261.

Audrey Wascome, 9503 Cabernet Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in support of House Bill No. 261.

Mya Wicker, 337 North 25th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 261.

Ben Clapper, Louisiana Right to Life, 200 Allen Toussaint Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 261.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 261 favorably, to which Representative Horton objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 2 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Knox and LaFleur voted yea. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Moore, and Wiley voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support and 6 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received for House Bill No. 261.

House Resolution No. 73 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Resolution No. 73, which directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to study mandatory issuance of protective orders.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 73 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 73 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 778 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 778, which provides with respect to the possession of Kratom.

John Shinholser, American Veterans for Kratom Safe, 435 Haley Court, Ashland, VA 23005, spoke in support of House Bill No. 778.

Zachary T. Daniels, executive director, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 778.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 778. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 778 was involuntarily deferred 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: 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received for House Bill No. 778.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 111 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 111, which creates the Louisiana Recreational Cannabis Policy Task Force, to which Representative Horton objected. Representative Horton offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 111, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 111 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, and Moore voted nay.

House Bill No. 328 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 328, which prohibits the carrying of firearms in college or university dormitories, to which Representative Horton objected. Representative Horton offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 328, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 328 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, and Moore voted nay.

Prepared statements were received for House Bill No. 328.

House Bill No. 517 by Representative Wilford Carter

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 517, which provides for the right to a jury trial for certain juvenile offenders, to which Representative Horton objected. Representative Horton offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 517, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 517 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, and Moore voted nay.

House Bill No. 564 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 564, which provides relative to parties to a crime, to which Representative Horton objected. Representative Horton offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 564, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 564 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Villio, Boudreaux, Boyer, Chenevert, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Adams, Knox, LaFleur, and Moore voted nay.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice