

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
April 13, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. in Room 4, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stuart J. Bishop, chairman
Representative James K. Armes III
Representative Robert E. Billiot
Representative Terry R. Brown
Representative Charles R. Chaney
Representative Patrick Connick
Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Franklin J. Foil
Representative Jerry Gisclair
Representative John E. Guinn
Representative Christopher J. Leopold, vice chairman
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Jack Montoucet
Representative James H. "Jim" Morris
Representative Malinda B. White
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Rodney Lyons

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Su King, legislative analyst
Tyler S. McCloud, attorney
Karen Stephens, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Larry Warino, clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Leopold in the chair.

House Bill No. 424 by Representative Bishop

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 424, which extends the cooperative endeavor program for use of the state's surface water resources.

J. Blake Canfield, Department of Natural Resources, 1617 N. Third Street, 12th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2710, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 424.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 424 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 424 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Armes, Billiot, Terry Brown, Chaney, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Guinn, Leopold, McFarland, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue 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.

Representative Bishop in the chair.

House Bill No. 527 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 527, which prohibits certain uses of surface water from a scenic river.

Cole Garrett, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 527.

Daniel Henry, Jr., Department of Natural Resources, office of conservation, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-5770, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 527.

J. Blake Canfield, Department of Natural Resources, 617 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2710, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 527.

Randell Myers, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-2805, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 527.

Robert Schromm, Louisiana Chemical Association, One American Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 276-7652, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 527.

Gifford Briggs, Louisiana Oil and Gas Association, P.O. Box 4069, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 892-7688, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 527.

Representative Miguez offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 527, to which Representative Montoucet objected. The secretary called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 527 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Bishop, Chaney, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Guinn, Leopold, McFarland, Miguez, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Armes, Billiot, Connick, Gisclair, and Montoucet voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. 13 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 526 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 526, which requires permits for certain ground water users. He requested a study resolution be prepared on the subject, and asked that action on House Bill No. 526 be voluntarily deferred.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only. 2 in support. 15 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 528 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter asked that action on House Bill No. 528, which prohibits certain uses of ground water and certain surface water, be voluntarily deferred.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 36 by Representative Thibaut

Representative Thibaut presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 36, which extends the False River Watershed Council for one year until June 30, 2017.

Representative Bishop offered an amendment to make a technical change. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Armes, Billiot, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Guinn offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 36 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 36 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Armes, Billiot, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 823 by Representative Hunter

Representative Hunter presented House Bill No. 823, which provides for heightened drinking water quality standards and increased enforcement of water system safety regulations in certain parishes.

Karen Day White, Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 N. Tenth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-5001, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 823.

Pat Credeur, Louisiana Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 180, Kinder, LA 70648, (337) 230-8446, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 823.

William Reeves, Louisiana Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 180, Kinder, LA 70648, (337) 738-2896, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 823.

Dr. Samuel Johnson, Together Louisiana, 208 Third Street, St. Joseph, LA 71366, (318) 766-2127, spoke in support of House Bill No. 823.

Garrett Boyte, Together Louisiana / The Episcopal Church, 212 Second Street, St. Joseph, LA 71366, (318) 801-5265, spoke in support of House Bill No. 823.

Russel L. Honore, GreenARMY, 14443 Memorial Tower Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (441) 227-1527, spoke in support of House Bill No. 823.

Minister Roy Bowman, Citizens of St. Joseph, LA, 710 Maple Street, St. Joseph, LA 71366, (318) 719-0049, spoke in support of House Bill No. 823.

Wanda Bowman, 710 Maple Street, St. Joseph, LA 71366, (318) 719-5830, spoke in support of House Bill No. 823.

Lady Carlson, Together Louisiana, 3301 St. Matthias Drive, Shreveport, LA 71119, (318) 880-7373, spoke in support of House Bill No. 823.

Representative Hunter asked that action on House Bill No. 823 be voluntarily deferred.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. 9 in support. 19 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1084 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 1084, which requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to adopt rules to control and prohibit the importation and private possession of big exotic cats.

Representative Bishop offered amendments to require rules to be adopted to control or prohibit the importation of possession of big exotic cats. Representative Bishop offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Armes, Billiot, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, McFarland, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Guinn offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1084 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1084 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bishop, Armes, Billiot, Chaney, Connick, Coussan, Foil, Gisclair, Guinn, Leopold, McFarland, Miguez, Montoucet, Jim Morris, White, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Stuart J. Bishop
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: