

House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
April 27, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Clay Schexnayder, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Clay Schexnayder, chairman
Representative John F. "Andy" Anders, vice chairman
Representative Terry R. Brown
Representative Charles R. Chaney
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Jerry Gisclair
Representative John E. Guinn
Representative Jeffrey "Jeff" Hall
Representative Bob Hensgens
Representative Dorothy Sue Hill
Representative Frank A. Howard
Representative H. Bernard LeBas
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative H. Eugene Reynolds
Representative John M. Stefanski

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Steve E. Pylant

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zaren James, division director
Glenn Fleming, legislative analyst
Karen Stephens, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Zach Lester, clerk
Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 232 by Representative Thomas

Representative Thomas presented House Bill No. 232, which provides relative to the mislabeling of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, no address provided, (225) 342-7270, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 232.

Representative Gisclair offered a motion to report House Bill No. 232 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 232 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Guinn, Hensgens, Hill, Howard, Dustin Miller, Reynolds, and Stefanski voted yea.

House Bill No. 297 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 297, which provides relative to membership on the Sweet Potato Advertising and Development Commission.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, no address provided, (225) 342-7270, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 297.

Representative Hensgens offered a motion to report House Bill No. 297 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 297 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Guinn, Hensgens, Hill, Howard, Dustin Miller, Reynolds, and Stefanski voted yea.

House Bill No. 298 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 298, which decreases the amount of college credit required for certification and licensing of agricultural consultants.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, no address provided, (225) 342-7270, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 298.

Representative Guinn offered a motion to report House Bill No. 298 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 298 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Guinn, Hensgens, Hill, Howard, Dustin Miller, Reynolds, and Stefanski voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 251 by Representative Schexnayder

On behalf of Representative Schexnayder, Commissioner Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, no address provided, (225) 342-7270, presented House Bill No. 251, which provides relative to the declaration of abandoned animals after a declared emergency.

Representative Schexnayder offered amendments to:

1. Specify that the shelter in which the animal is receiving temporary services must be a shelter in a facility operated by the department for proposed law to apply.
2. Decrease the amount of time that an owner has to claim an animal receiving temporary shelter services after a declared emergency from 90 days to 30 days.

Representative Schexnayder offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Guinn, Hensgens, Hill, Howard, Dustin Miller, Reynolds, and Stefanski voted yea.

Representative Gisclair offered a motion to report House Bill No. 251 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 251 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hensgens, Hill, Howard, LeBas, Dustin Miller, Reynolds, and Stefanski voted yea.

House Bill No. 593 by Representative Pugh

Representative Pugh presented House Bill No. 593, which provides relative to the regulation of turtles.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, no address provided, (225) 342-7270, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 593.

Representative Terry Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 593 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 593 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hensgens, Hill, Howard, LeBas, Dustin Miller, Reynolds, and Stefanski voted yea.

House Bill No. 252 by Representative Schexnayder

On behalf of Representative Schexnayder, Commissioner Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, no address provided, (225) 342-7270, presented House Bill No. 252, which provides relative to animal health and food safety for commercial feeds.

Representative Terry Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 252 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 252 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hensgens, Hill, Howard, LeBas, Dustin Miller, Reynolds, and Stefanski voted yea.

House Bill No. 431 by Representative Schexnayder

On behalf of Representative Schexnayder, Mr. Jim Monroe, Louisiana Farm Bureau, 9516 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 922-6202, presented House Bill No. 431, which amends provisions of law regarding co-operative marketing associations.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, no address provided, (225) 342-7270, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 431.

Representative Guinn offered a motion to report House Bill No. 431 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 431 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Gisclair, Guinn, Hall, Hensgens, Hill, Howard, LeBas, Dustin Miller, Reynolds, and Stefanski voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Approval of 2016 meeting minutes dated March 2, March 24, April 14, and May 5

The minutes from the 2016 First Extraordinary Session dated March 2, and the 2016 Regular Session dated March 24, April 14, and May 5, were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Howard offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Guinn, Hensgens, Hill, Howard, Dustin Miller, Reynolds, and Stefanski voted yea.

Update on medical marijuana implementation: LSU, Southern University, and the Department of Agriculture & Forestry

Dr. William Richardson, LSU AgCenter, no address provided, (225) 578-4161, gave members an update on the implementation of the medical marijuana program at Louisiana State University.

Dr. Bobby R. Phills, SU AgCenter, P.O. Box 10010, Baton Rouge, LA 70813, (225) 771-2152, gave members an update on the implementation of the medical marijuana program at Southern University and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, no address provided, (225) 342-7270, spoke for information only.

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

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Schexnayder welcomed a new member, Representative John M. Stefanski, to the committee.

Representatives Gisclair and Schexnayder welcomed audience members from the Future Farmers of America to the committee.

Representative Dustin Miller welcomed Dr. Bobby Phills, from the SU AgCenter, to the committee.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Clay Schexnayder
House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development

Date approved: