

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

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
May 11, 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 Bob Hensgens
Representative Dorothy Sue Hill
Representative Frank A. Howard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Jeffrey "Jeff" Hall
Representative H. Bernard LeBas
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Steve E. Pylant
Representative H. Eugene Reynolds
Representative John M. Stefanski

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Addison Nick, clerk
Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 68 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 68, which requests the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to study implementing a master logger certification program under the office of forestry.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Boulevard, Suite 2000, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1233, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 68.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 68 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 68 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Hensgens, Hill, and Howard voted yea.

House Bill No. 580 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 580, which provides relative to the disposition of timber severance taxes.

Representative Gisclair offered amendments to:

1. Remove the provision requiring the governing authority of a parish that receives timber severance tax funds to use the funds solely for road maintenance and construction.
2. Remove the provision requiring the governing authority of any parish that receives timber severance taxes to exhaust the funds received on road maintenance and construction prior to requesting liability bonds or certificates of insurance from timber, logging, or lumber companies.

Representative Gisclair offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Hensgens, Hill, and Howard voted yea.

Representative Gisclair offered a motion to report House Bill No. 580 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 580 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Anders, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Hensgens, Hill, and Howard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 321 by Representative Gisclair

Representative Gisclair presented House Bill No. 321, which establishes a permit fee for milk and dairy farms and plants.

Representative Schexnayder offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Schexnayder offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Hensgens, Hill, and Howard voted yea.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 321 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 321 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Guinn, Hensgens, Hill, and Howard voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 64 by Senator Gatti

On behalf of Senator Gatti, Representative Emerson presented Senate Bill No. 64, which provides for animal shelter operating procedures and training requirements and authorizes animal shelters to post pictures of animals on a social media account or website.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Boulevard, Suite 2000, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1233, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 64.

Representative Gisclair offered amendments to mandate that all annual training required in proposed law be approved by the state veterinarian. Representative Gisclair offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Guinn, Hensgens, Hill, and Howard voted yea.

Representative Gisclair offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 64 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 64 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Guinn, Hensgens, Hill, and Howard voted yea.

House Bill No. 466 by Representative Chaney

Representative Chaney presented House Bill No. 466, which provides relative to animal control.

Representative Schexnayder offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Increase the membership on the Louisiana Animal Control Advisory Task Force from five to six.
3. Replace the private animal shelter member on the task force with an individual from the public at large.
4. Add the state veterinarian to the task force.
5. Clarify that the governing authority of an animal impoundment facility grants the state veterinarian access to its records and personnel within seven days of receipt of a written request.
6. Repeal requirements relative to the Louisiana Pet Registry and remove any references to the law.
7. Add the Louisiana Animal Shelter Registry and change reference to the Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission to the Louisiana Animal Control Advisory Task Force.
8. Remove the definition of commission and any reference to the commission under the Louisiana Animal Shelter Registry law.

Representative Schexnayder offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Guinn, Hensgens, Hill, and Howard voted yea.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Boulevard, Suite 2000, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1233, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 466.

Ms. Ashley Delrie, Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission director and former director of the Shelter Inspection Program, no address provided, (225) 772-8370, spoke in support of House Bill No. 466.

Representative Guinn offered amendments to change the Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission to the Louisiana Pet Overpopulation Advisory Council for income tax refund donation purposes. Representative Guinn offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Guinn, Hensgens, Hill, and Howard voted yea.

Representative Guinn offered a motion to report House Bill No. 466 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 466 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schexnayder, Terry Brown, Chaney, DeVillier, Emerson, Gisclair, Guinn, Hensgens, Hill, and Howard 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date approved: