

## House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting  
2019 Regular Session  
March 12, 2019

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Sherman Q. Mack, chairman of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Sherman Q. Mack, chairman  
Representative Tony Bacala  
Representative John H. Bagneris  
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter  
Representative Raymond J. Crews  
Representative Royce Duplessis  
Representative Stephen C. Dwight  
Representative Randal L. Gaines  
Representative Valarie Hodges  
Representative Frank A. Howard  
Representative Edward C. "Ted" James, II  
Representative C. Denise Marcelle  
Representative Joseph A. Marino, III  
Representative Nicholas Muscarello, Jr.  
Representative Barbara M. Norton  
Representative John M. Stefanski

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Steve E. Pylant, vice chairman

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kelly C. Fogleman, attorney  
Katie LeLeux, attorney  
Natalie Schexnaydre, secretary

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Madeleine Murphy, clerk  
Daniel Leming, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN LOUISIANA**

Chairman Mack made an opening statement on the purpose of the meeting regarding capital punishment in Louisiana. He stated that the meeting would include testimony from victims and witnesses and statistical information.

Attorney General Jeff Landry, Louisiana Department of Justice, 1885 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802, (225) 326-6705, spoke in regard to the current status of capital punishment. He discussed his concerns on the current hold of executions and called for a change to reinstate the death penalty.

Wayne Guzzardo, 20017 Shadowbrook Avenue, Dehnam Springs, LA, 70726, (225) 664-9308, spoke about the murder of his daughter, Stephanie. He expressed how his family has not received justice while his daughter's killer is still on death row. He explained his concerns over the current pause in executions.

Albert Culbert, Jr., 5220 West Sandy Bayou, Alexandria, LA, 71302, (318) 442-7435, spoke about the murders of his brother, sister, his niece, and a family friend. He expressed his concerns over why it has taken so long for his family's murderer to be executed. He spoke in support of the death penalty.

Therese Chataignier, 702 Terrell Ct., New Iberia, LA 70563, (337) 344-6566, spoke about her daughter's murder and the attempted murder that was committed against her. She spoke in support of the death penalty as she explained the events that led to her daughter's murder and how her family has grieved for justice for over 20 years.

Irvin L. Magri, Jr., President of Crime Fighters, 1721 Highway 1, Grand Isle, LA, 70358, (985) 787-2477, provided handouts, Exhibit A and B, which are included in the committee records, and discussed the purpose of Crime Fighters of Louisiana and the murder rates statewide.

Michelle W. Ghetti, Deputy Solicitor General, 18531 Lake Tulip Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, 70817, (225) 933-9029, provided handouts, Exhibit C, D, E, F, and G, which are included in the committee records. She related her family's experience with homicide and the death penalty. She discussed various methods of execution in other states and the several pharmaceutical combinations used.

John Sinquefield, prosecutor, P.O. Box 1934, Baton Rouge, LA, 70821, (225) 326-6705, spoke on previous executions and prior prosecutions that he has conducted. He expressed his support of revamping the death penalty and his concerns over the current state of the death penalty in Louisiana.

Attorney General Jeff Landry detailed the actions his office has taken to administratively resolve the current status of capital punishment, provided solutions to revamp the death penalty process, and expressed concerns over the administration of the death penalty. He and Deputy Solicitor General Michelle W. Ghetti answered questions from committee members.

Jerry J. Larpenfer, Sheriff, 135 W. Ellendale Estate Drive, Houma, LA, 70360, (985) 876-2500, provided a handout, Exhibit H, which is included in the committee records, and spoke in support of capital punishment in Louisiana and discussed prior crimes in Terrebonne Parish.

Nolan Boutte, 27 Lansdowne, Destrehan, LA, 70047, (985) 764-8506, spoke in support of capital punishment in Louisiana.

Denny LeBoeuf, defense attorney, no address provided, (504) 784-9464, discussed his concerns with capital punishment.

Flozell Daniels, 1036 Numa Street, New Orleans, LA, 70114, (225) 772-7389, spoke in opposition to capital punishment.

Laverne Thompson, 7333 Sheffield Street, New Orleans, LA, 70126 (504) 228-0347, spoke in opposition to capital punishment.

Dr. Nicholas Mitchell, 6363 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA, 70118, (225) 892-6882, provided a handout, Exhibit I, which is included in the committee records, and spoke in opposition to capital punishment.

Rev. Joe Morris Doss, 1201 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA, 70112, (504) 343-3208, spoke in opposition to capital punishment.

James T. Dixon, Jr., 301 Main Street, Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA, 70825, (225) 219-9305, provided state costs for executing the death penalty and costs of exoneration.

Connie Finkbeiner, 13082 Dale Drive, Ponchatoula, LA, 70454, (504) 722-9597, spoke in support of capital punishment.

E. King Alexander, 600 Julius Street, Lake Charles, LA, 70605, (337) 764-6027, provided a handout, Exhibit J, which is included in the committee records, and discussed his concerns with capital punishment.

Amy Prohaska, 15066 Beau Jon Avenue, Prairieville, LA, 70769, (225) 955-1540, spoke in support of capital punishment.

William H. Barnwell, 1917 Audubon Street, New Orleans, LA, 70118, (504) 862-0311, provided a handout, Exhibit K, which is included in the committee records, and spoke in opposition to capital punishment.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Sherman Q. Mack  
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Date adopted: