

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
May 6, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan, chairman
Representative Ryan Joseph Bourriaque, vice chairman
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Su King, legislative analyst
Tyler Bosworth, legislative analyst
Trinicia Bryant, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 184 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 184, which provides for the lease of certain state property in Jefferson Parish.

Candace Watkins, City of Kenner, 417 N. Florida Street, Covington, LA 70433, (985) 249-8646, spoke in support of House Bill No. 184.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 184 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 184 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 0 in opposition, and 0 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 111 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 111, which authorizes the Red River, Atchafalaya, and Bayou Beouf Levee Districts to exchange property in Avoyelles Parish.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Coussan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 111 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 111 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 830 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 830, which authorizes the sale of an office building owned by Nicholls State University in Terrebonne Parish.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 830 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 830 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yeas.

House Bill No. 461 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 461, which provides relative to a property exchange between the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Cole Garrett, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 461.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Bill No. 461 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 461 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yeas.

House Resolution No. 19 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Resolution No. 19, which approves the annual state integrated coastal protection plan for Fiscal Year 2021, as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board.

Chip Kline, Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board, no address provided, (225) 342-4367, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 19. Mr. Kline provided the committee with a booklet entitled "Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Plan, Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Hurricane Protection in Coastal Louisiana", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Bren Haase, Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration, 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2179, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 19.

George Cavnac, Gulf Coast Resource Coalition, 2825 Lloyds Avenue, Chalmette, LA 70043, (504) 913-3279, spoke in opposition to House Resolution No. 19.

Representative Cormier offered a motion to return the annual plan to the CPRA to make specified changes and then to resubmit it to the legislature, to which Representative Riser objected. Representative Riser offered a substitute motion to report House Resolution No. 19 favorably, to which Representative Cormier objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Resolution No. 19 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Coussan,

Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea. Representative Cormier voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, 4 in opposition, 0 for information only. Witness card are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 12 in support, 0 in opposition, and 0 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 592 by Representative Magee

Representative Magee presented House Bill No. 592, which allows the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to incur debt or issue bonds.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 592 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 592 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 0 in opposition, 2 for information only. Witness card are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support, 0 in opposition, and 0 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 181 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 181, which extends cooperative endeavor agreements for use of surface waters.

Representative Riser offered amendments to eliminate the date by which an application must be received and eliminate the final termination date of the agreements. Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Bill No. 181 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 181 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 0 in support, 0 in opposition, 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support, 0 in opposition, and 0 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 143 by Representative Coussan

Representative Coussan presented House Bill No. 143, which re-creates the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Rob Shadoin, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-2354, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 143.

Cole Garrett, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 143.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 143 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 143 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 659 by Representative Carrier

Representative Carrier presented House Bill No. 659, which provides relative to requirements for establishing a solid waste incineration facility.

Elliot B. Vega, assistant secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-3180, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 659.

Representative Carrier offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Carrier offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 659 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 659 was reported by substitute by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 0 in support, 0 in opposition, 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 0 in support, 2 in opposition, and 0 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Adoption of Committee Rules

Representative Coussan offered a motion to adopt the Rules of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records. Without objection, the committee rules were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Adoption of a motion to continue receipt of department reports to the Legislature

Representative Coussan offered a motion to continue receipt of department reports to the Legislature. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Consideration of the sale by Louisiana Tech University of property located at 800 West Alabama St. in Ruston, Louisiana

Representative Riser informed the committee of a letter he received from Leslie K. Guice, President, Louisiana Tech University, with regard to the sale of property located in Ruston, Louisiana. A copy of the letter from Mr. Guice dated March 4, 2020, Exhibit C, is included in the committee records.

Representative Riser offered a motion to approve the sale by Louisiana Tech University of property located at 800 West Alabama St. in Ruston, Louisiana. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Wheat offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Cormier, DeVillier, Deshotel, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman Jean-Paul P. Coussan
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: April 22, 2021