

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
May 13, 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 1:03 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 Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Phillip R. DeVillier
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:

Alvin Judson, III, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 35 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 35, which extends the False River Watershed Council.

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 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Deshotel, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 35 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 35 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Deshotel, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 159 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 159, which allows nighttime hunting of outlaw quadrupeds, nutria, and beaver on private property at any time of the year.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Bill No. 159 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 159 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Deshotel, DeVillier, 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, 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 728 by Representative Robert Owen

Representative Robert Owen presented House Bill No. 728, which is relative to the Wild Louisiana Guide License.

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. 728.

Representative Riser offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Deshotel, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Deshotel offered concept amendments to specify fee provisions. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Deshotel, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 728. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 728 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Butler, Carrier, Deshotel, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

House Bill No. 752 by Representative Cormier

Representative Cormier presented House Bill No. 752, which provides relative to the composition of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation.

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 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Deshotel, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 752. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 752 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Deshotel, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 3 in opposition, 0 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, 1 in opposition, and 0 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 433 by Representative Cormier

Representative Cormier presented House Bill No. 433, which reduces the oyster seed ground vessel permit fee and creates associated gear fees.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to provide clarity that a vessel may possess more than two scrapers on board but may only have two active at any time and add an effective date to fall in line with current licencing requirements. Representative Coussan 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, Deshotel, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 433. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 433 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Deshotel, DeVillier, 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. 411 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 411, which provides relative to hunting and fishing license fees for Purple Heart recipients.

Representative Mincey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 411 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 411 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Deshotel, DeVillier, 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.

House Bill No. 246 by Representative Coussan

Representative Coussan presented House Bill No. 246, which authorizes the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to certify "organizations involved in charitable hunting and fishing activities" and waives license fees for such organizations.

Representative Mincey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 246 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 246 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Carrier, Deshotel, DeVillier, 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Tyler Gray, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (LMOGA), 730 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, no phone number provided, spoke for information only. Mr. Gray provided an overview of the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association work within the state and also gave an overview of community involvement during the COVID 19 outbreak. LMOGA's community contributions have totaled \$2 million locally, \$100 million worldwide, which has included providing PPE to front line workers, food programs, and support to local schools. LMOGA is also partnering with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF), Entergy, Exxon Mobil, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Humana for Fueling the Fight initiative to help provide front line healthcare workers in Baton Rouge area hospitals with meals.

Gifford Briggs, Louisiana Oil and Gas Association (LOGA), P O Box 4069, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 892-7688, spoke for information only. Mr. Briggs provided an overview of LOGA and its primary focus. He also informed the committee of the challenging times for the oil industry due to COVID 19.

Representative Coussan inquired about the RAC price per barrel for the next year, to which Mr. Briggs replied \$28, \$29, \$31, and \$37 for the next four fiscal years, respectively.

Greg Bowser, Louisiana Chemical Association (LCA), One American Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 344-2609, spoke for information only. Mr. Bowser provided an overview of the Louisiana Chemical Association. He stated LCA is a trade association that represents 66 major chemical manufacturers throughout the state of Louisiana and employs approximately 29,000 direct jobs. He also informed the committee of LCA community involvement during the pandemic.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriague, Butler, Carrier, Deshotel, DeVillier, Kerner, Landry, Lyons, Mincey, Riser, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date adopted: April 22, 2021