

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

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
May 13, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Jack G. McFarland, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Jack G. McFarland, chairman
Representative Francis C. Thompson, vice chairman
Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Larry Selders
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc III
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Ryan Bourriaque
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Malinda B. White

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nicholas Cole, attorney
Trinicia Bryant, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

None

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 32 by Senator Cathey

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 32, which repeals the exclusion of certain agricultural products authorized to be sampled and analyzed by the commissioner of agriculture.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 3rd Floor, Louisiana State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (225) 922-1233, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 32.

Representative C. Travis Johnson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 32 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 32 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Thompson, C. Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 103 by Senator Hensgens

Senator Hensgens presented Senate Bill No. 103, which creates the Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research Program.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 3rd Floor, Louisiana State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (225) 922-1233, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 103.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 103 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 103 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Thompson, C. Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 58 by Senator Womack

On behalf of Senator Womack, Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 3rd Floor, Louisiana State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (225) 922-1233, presented Senate Bill No. 58, which provides for the identification of certain impounded animals.

Representative Riser offered amendments to:

1. Add a provision that requires the possessor of a found domestic animal to prove the animal lacked a microchip or other owner-identifying information prior to claiming ownership under present law, and that the presence of owner identifying information creates a rebuttable presumption that the possessor has not satisfied the requirements for ownership under present law.
2. Make technical changes.

Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Thompson, Bryant, C. Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 58 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 58 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Thompson, Bryant, C. Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Mincey, Riser, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS**Introduction and comments from the state officers of the Louisiana FFA Association**

Representative McFarland introduced and welcomed Mr. Cade LeJeune and state officers of the Louisiana FFA Association. Mr. Cade LeJeune, executive secretary, Louisiana FFA Association, provided an overview of the organization and the importance of the Agriculture Committee's support. FFA Officers present were Kaleb LeMoine, state president of Elton, Louisiana, Haley Facuane, state treasurer of Pontchatoula, Louisiana, Megan Chiasson, state reporter of Cut Off, Louisiana, Faith Thibodeaux, state sentinel of Plainview, Louisiana, and Bryson Johnson, state parliamentarian of Tioga, Louisiana. The state officers also presented a PowerPoint, entitled "Louisiana Agricultural Education", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

The state officers expressed their appreciation for the Louisiana FFA Association experience and the positive impacts the program has had on their lives and success in schooling and opportunities. Representative McFarland thanked Mr. LeJeune and the state officers for appearing before the committee.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Romero offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Thompson, Bryant, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Riser, Romero, St. Blanc, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jack G. McFarland
House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development

Date adopted: