

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

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 7, 2022

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 9:32 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Jack G. McFarland, chairman
Representative Dustin Miller, vice chairman
Representative Ryan Bourriaque
Representative Adrian Fisher
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.
Representative Troy D. Romero
Representative Larry Selders
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Francis C. Thompson
Representative Christopher Turner
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nicholas Cole, attorney
Brandy Phillips, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

None

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 758 by Representative Schexnayder

Representative Schexnayder presented House Bill No. 758, which provides relative to industrial hemp.

Representative Thompson offered amendments to:

1. Add the term "adult-use consumable hemp product" and defines it as any consumable hemp product that contains more than 0.5 milligrams of total THC per package.
2. Change the definition of "artificially-derived cannabinoid" to mean a chemical substance that is created by a chemical reaction using non-cannabis materials that results in a substance that replicates the molecular structure of a naturally occurring cannabis material.
3. Expand what an artificially-derived cannabinoid to specify that it does not include derivatives and isomers of industrial hemp made naturally occurring industrial hemp material.
4. Change the acceptable THC levels in consumable hemp products and provide a table outlining the various consumable hemp products along with the acceptable levels of THC per serving, per package, and by concentration.
5. Add a provision that any consumable hemp product not specified in proposed law cannot exceed the THC limits provided for edible products.
6. Add a requirement to identify any adult-use consumable hemp product on the label.
7. Clarify that the certificate of analysis that must be provided is on the final product.
8. Expand the information to be included in a certificate of analysis for a consumable hemp product to include test results identifying the serving and package size in milligrams per grams and the total THC per serving and per package in milligrams per grams.

9. Require the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to review any consumable hemp product submitted for approval and notify the submitting party of any deficiencies existing which prevents the approval of the product within 15 business days of the date of submission.
10. Require the LDH to provide a mechanism, by September 30, 2022, to allow the office of alcohol and tobacco control to scan consumable hemp products to determine if the product is registered with the LDH and if not provided by the deadline any products submitted to the LDH for approval can be sold by a licensed wholesaler or retailer while the product is pending approval.
11. Require the LDH to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of present and proposed law on consumable hemp product approval by the LDH and regulation of processors utilizing emergency rulemaking authority.
12. Require the LDH to include the limits for solvents, pesticides, microbials, and heavy metals allowable in consumable hemp products in their administrative rules.
13. Prohibit licensed retailers from selling adult-use consumable hemp products to any person under the age of 21.
14. Make technical changes.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriaque, Fisher, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Thompson, Turner, and White voted yea.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1233, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 758.

Mr. Daryl Schouest, Louisiana Hemp Extractors, 2742 Oscar Rivette Road, Arnaudville, LA 70512, (337) 418-9478, spoke in support of House Bill No. 758, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. John Ford, Black Farmers Hemp, 1001 East Gloria Switch Road, Lafayette, LA, (337) 781-7778, spoke in support of House Bill No. 758.

Mr. Ryan Templet, Gulf South Hemp Association, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 758.

Mr. Jason Garsee, 318 LABZ/STR8W8 Cannabis, 3009 Louisville Avenue, Monroe, LA 71201, (318) 557-4198, spoke in support of House Bill No. 758.

Mr. Kent Byron, Stat Shots, LLC, 314 School Board Drive, New Iberia, LA 70560, spoke in support of House Bill No. 758.

Mr. Desi Kent, 9225 Drew Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 418-3262, spoke in support of House Bill No. 758.

Mr. Paige Melancon, 2742 Oscar Rivette Road, Arnaudville, LA 70512, (337) 319-8627, spoke in support of House Bill No. 758.

Mr. Blain Jennings, Virgin Hemp Farms, P.O. Box 129, Milton, LA 70558, (337) 849-6481, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 758.

Mr. Justin Hewitt, Cypress Hemp, 10771 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, (225) 328-0971, spoke in support of House Bill No. 758.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 758 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 758 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriaque, Fisher, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, St. Blanc, Thompson, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 187 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 187, which provides for the powers of the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1233, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 187.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Bill No. 187 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 187 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriaque, Fisher, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, Selders, Turner, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Miller in the chair.

House Bill No. 283 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 283, which provides relative to timber harvest season permits.

Representative Thompson offered amendments to:

1. Remove the expanded definition of "forest products".
2. Make technical changes.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Fisher, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, Selders, Thompson, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1233, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 283.

Representative Selders offered a motion to report House Bill No. 283 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 283 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriaque, Fisher, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, Selders, Thompson, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 327 by Representative Thompson

Representative Thompson presented House Bill No. 327, which provides relative to the assessment levied on soybeans grown in the state.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, 5825 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-1233, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 327.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 327 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 327 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriague, Fisher, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, Selders, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The minutes from the 2021 Regular Session dated April 29 and May 13 were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Wheat offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriague, Fisher, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, Selders, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Travis Johnson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriague, Fisher, Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, Selders, Thompson, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: