

## **House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment**

Minutes of Meeting  
2022 Regular Session  
April 6, 2022

### **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 9:29 a.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 Bourriaque, vice chairman  
Representative R. Dewith Carrier  
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier  
Representative Adrian Fisher  
Representative Brett F. Geymann  
Representative Timothy P. Kerner  
Representative Mandie Landry  
Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr.  
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron  
Representative Neil Riser  
Representative Troy D. Romero  
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn  
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler

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

Tyler Bosworth, legislative analyst  
Robin Stalder, attorney  
Brandy Phillips, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Concurrent Resolution No. 9 by Representative Lyons**

Representative Coussan announced that action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 9, which amends provisions of administrative rules to require vapor recovery systems at certain facilities along the Mississippi River in certain parishes, was voluntarily deferred.

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 by Representative Bishop**

Representative Bishop presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 24, which urges and requests that the Department of Environmental Quality report to the legislature regarding Capitol Lake remediation.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, and Schamerhorn 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.

**House Bill No. 397 by Representative Bishop**

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 397, which separates funding sources for environmental education and litter abatement.

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 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Bill No. 397 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 397 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 4 in support. 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: 8 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 749 by Representative Bishop**

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 749, which transfers litter abatement responsibilities and programs from the Department of Education to the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism.

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 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Bill No. 749 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 749 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 6 in support. 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: 8 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 750 by Representative Bishop**

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 750, which provides for the prosecution of certain littering violations by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Mr. 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. 750.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Bill No. 750 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 750 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 5 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 by Representative Bourriague**

Representative Bourriague presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 34, which approves the annual state integrated coastal protection plan for Fiscal Year 2023, as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board.

Mr. Chip Kline, CPRA, 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, no phone number provided, spoke for information only and presented a PowerPoint entitled "Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Plan: Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Hurricane Protection in Coastal Louisiana" and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Bren Haase, CPRA, 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2179, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 34.

Representative Bourriague offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriague, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 25 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 by Representative McFarland**

Representative McFarland presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 18, which creates the Feral Hog Management Advisory Task Force in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Senator Allain addressed the committee in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 18.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriague, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

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

**House Bill No. 419 by Representative McFarland**

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 419, which provides for hand-grabbing of catfish and the taking of bream in minnow traps.

Representative Carrier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 419 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 419 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 632 by Representative McFarland**

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 632, which provides relative to small refineries.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Bill No. 632 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 632 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 374 by Representative Beaulieu**

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 374, which increases the fine for gross littering of tires and failure to obtain a generator identification number.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to:

1. Establish an exemption relative to failure to obtain a generator identification number for persons operating a vehicle fleet, and performing on-site maintenance exclusively on their own vehicles.

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, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report House Bill No. 374 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 374 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

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

### **House Bill No. 655 by Representative Coussan**

On behalf of Representative Coussan, Senator Allain presented House Bill No. 655, which provides relative to the management of solar resources.

Representative Coussan offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Narrow the requirements for calculating the estimated cost of site closures and remediation for purposes of determining the adequacy of the bond or other financial security.
3. Cap the amount the department can charge in fees to an applicant or permit holder in a given fiscal year at an amount not to exceed the department's budgeted cost of implementing and administering the program.
4. Change the review process for decommissioning plans from only requiring plans to be reviewed for sufficiency by the department to requiring plans be updated every five years after the initial plan submission and be reviewed for sufficiency by the department.
5. Require power generation facilities in construction prior to Aug. 1, 2022, to register with the department and pay an annual monitoring and maintenance fee.
6. Specify that beginning Jan. 1, 2024, facilities must be in compliance with proposed law and department rules and regulations, including financial security and submission of a decommissioning plan.

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, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Mr. Stephen Wright, Gulf States Renewable Energy Association, 695 Kinston Lane, Mandeville, LA 70471, (318) 663-3810, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 655.

Mr. Dan Claitor, D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments, LLC, 7520 Perkins Road, #170, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 757-0159, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 655

Mr. Jody Montelaro, Entergy, North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, no phone number provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 655.

Mr. Blake Canfield, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, 216 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, (225) 342-3024, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 655.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 655 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 655 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

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

#### **House Bill No. 69 by Representative DeVillier**

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 69, which provides relative to photographic evidence for instances of violations of litter laws.

Mr. Jason Stag, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, enforcement, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 69. He presented several short videos of littering being done from within a vehicle.

Representative Carrier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 69 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 69 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

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

#### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 43 by Representative Orgeron**

Representative Orgeron presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 43, which urges and requests federal action on domestic oil and gas production.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 43 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 43 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 9 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 26 by Representative Coussan**

Representative Coussan presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 26, which urges and requests the president of the United States to consider the current geopolitical tensions and support policies and take measures to ensure America's long-term energy affordability, security, leadership, and progress.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 26 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 26 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not wish to speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Fisher offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Carrier, Cormier, Fisher, Geymann, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date adopted: