

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2023 Regular Session  
May 3, 2023

## 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 9:10 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 Rhonda Gaye Butler  
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel  
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 Christopher Turner  
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.  
Representative Malinda B. White

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass  
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant  
Representative Francis C. Thompson

### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lashay Masami, legislative analyst  
Ashley Davillier, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**House Resolution No. 68 by Representative Thomas**

Representative Thomas presented House Resolution No. 68, which urges and requests Louisiana state agencies to prioritize native plant species in landscaping state properties, except for invasive plant species listed on the Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan.

Ms. Tammany Baumgarten, LA Native Plant Society, 248 Brooklyn Avenue, Jefferson, LA, (504) 616-9344, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 68 and presented a PowerPoint entitled "House Resolution #68 Louisiana's Native Plants" and provided handouts entitled "Louisiana Native Plant Resource Guide for Gardeners and Landscapers", Exhibit A, "House Resolution #68 Louisiana's Native Plants", Exhibit B, and "Instead of That, Plant This", Exhibit C, which are included in the committee records.

Ms. Phyllis Baudoin Griffard, LA Native Plant Society and Acadiana Native Plant Project, 228 Borel Road, Sunset, LA 70584, (832) 499-8249, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 68.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 68 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 68 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriaque, Butler, Deshotel, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yeas.

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

**House Bill No. 36 by Representative C. Travis Johnson**

Representative Travis Johnson presented House Bill No. 36, which provides for the Delta Agriculture Research and Sustainability District.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report House Bill No. 36 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 36 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriaque, Butler, Deshotel, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yeas.

**House Bill No. 33 by Representative McFarland**

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 33, which modifies structural pest control provisions related to the registered technician examination and the appointment of research committee members.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, Third Floor, Capitol, (225) 522-1233, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 33.

Representative Romero offered a motion to report House Bill No. 33 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 33 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriaque, Butler, Deshotel, Fisher, McCormick, McMahan, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 45 by Representative DeVillier**

On behalf of Representative DeVillier, Chairman McFarland presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 45, which creates the Louisiana Solar Siting Task Force to study the impact of, and alternatives to, locating solar energy developments on farmland.

Representative Butler offered amendments to:

1. Add the following members to the task force: the president of the Advanced Power Alliance, or his designee; the president of the Center for Planning Excellence, or his designee; the president of the Association of La. Electric Cooperatives, or his designee; a representative of the La. Energy and Power Authority; the president of the Natural Resources Management Association, or his designee; a representative of a privately owned utility regulated by the La. Public Service Commission; and a representative of the investor owned utility regulated by the La. Public Service Commission and the City Counsel of New Orleans.
2. Change the quorum from "six" to "ten" members.
3. Add an exception to the compensation of members relating to per diem or expense reimbursements that the members may be individually entitled to.
4. Make technical changes.
5. Require the members who were added to the task force receive a copy of this Resolution.

Representative Butler offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriaque, Butler, Deshotel, Fisher, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 45 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 45 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriaque, Butler, Deshotel, Fisher, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, Turner, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Witness cards presented by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 60 by Representative Echols**

Representative Echols presented House Bill No. 60, which provides for the regulation of fueling stations for electric vehicles.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, Capitol, (225) 522-1233, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 60.

Representative White offered a motion to report House Bill No. 60 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 60 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Butler, Deshotel, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, St. Blanc, Wheat, and White voted yea.

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

**House Bill No. 125 by Representative Echols**

Representative Echols presented House Bill No. 125, which provides relative to agriculture land protection against foreign adversaries.

Representative Mincey offered amendments to:

1. Modify the definition of "foreign adversary" by modeling the language after 15 CFR 7.4.
2. Add "leases" as a mandatory reported transaction.

3. Establish requirements for rescinding contracts for violations of proposed law.
4. Add a process, including service and filing requirements, for the attorney general to address violations of proposed law by authorizing him to do the following:
  - (a) Bring an action for injunctive relief that involves discovery through investigative demands and depositions.
  - (b) Compel discovery through a rule to show cause if a party fails to comply.
  - (c) Enforce proposed law through whatever lawful means are available to him.
5. Add authorization for the court to issue additional orders involving the following:
  - (a) Revocation, forfeiture, or suspension of licensure.
  - (b) Appointment of a receiver.
  - (c) Dissolution of a domestic corporation.
  - (d) Suspension or termination of a foreign company's right to do business in the state.
  - (e) Restitution.
  - (f) Civil forfeiture of immovable property.
6. Add a provision that specifies that the failure to identify a buyer as a foreign adversary does not create additional liability for those involved in the consummation of a real estate transaction.

Representative Mincey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Butler, Deshotel, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, Selders, Wheat, and White voted yea.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, Third Floor, Capitol, (225) 522-1233, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 125.

Mr. Rob Rieger, La. Land Title Association, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 336-5200, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 125.

Representative Mincey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 125 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 125 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriaque, Butler, Deshotel, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards presented by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 in opposition. 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: 5 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

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

##### **Presentation by Sydney Bruchhaus, Annie Heard, and Lauren Poole - La. Future Farmers of America**

Ms. Lauren Poole, Louisiana FFA, 165 Seneca Trail, Winnfield, LA 71483, (318) 321-9007, spoke for information only.

Ms. Annie Heard, Louisiana FFA, 837 Highway 1228, Winnfield, LA 71483, (318) 664-3811, spoke for information only.

Ms. Sydney Bruchhaus, Louisiana FFA, 28451 Raymond Highway, Elton, LA 70532, (337) 368-4555, spoke for information only.

Ms. Poole, Ms. Heard, and Ms. Bruchhaus presented a PowerPoint entitled "Louisiana FFA: Building Our State's Future" and provided a handout, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

##### **Presentation by Dr. Mike Strain, Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, and Joey Breaux, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry - La. Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Soil and Water Conservation**

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, Third Floor, Capitol, (225) 522-1233 spoke for information only.

Mr. Joey Breaux, LDAF, 5825 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA (225) 922-1269, spoke for information only.

Commissioner Strain and Mr. Breaux presented a PowerPoint entitled "LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry Office of Soil and Water Conservation" and provided a handout, Exhibit E, which is included in the committee records.

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

##### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the 2022 Regular Session dated April 7, April 20, April 28, May 5, and May 12 were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Wheat offered a motion to approve

the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriague, Butler, Fisher, C. Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Mincey, Romero, Selders, St. Blanc, and Wheat voted yea.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Romero offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives McFarland, Dustin Miller, Bourriague, Deshotel, C. Travis Johnson, McCormick, McMahan, Romero, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: