

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 17, 2023

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 9:37 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 Rhonda Gaye Butler
Representative R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Adrian Fisher
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
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 Scott McKnight

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robin Stalder, attorney
Benjamin Westra, attorney
Lacy Slaughter, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 by Senator Hensgens**

On behalf of Senator Hensgens, Representative Zeringue presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17, which approves the comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection.

Mr. Chip Kline, CPRA, 1051 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 342-7669, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17, presented a PowerPoint entitled "Louisiana's 2023 Coastal Master Plan", and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Bren Haase, CPRA, 150 Terrace Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2179, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17.

Representative Coussan offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Cormier, Fisher, Hilferty, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 by Senator Hensgens

On behalf of Senator Hensgens, Mr. Chip Kline, CPRA, 1051 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 342-7669 presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, which approves the annual state integrated coastal protection plan for Fiscal Year 2024, as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board, presented a PowerPoint entitled "Fiscal year 2024 Annual Plan: Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Hurricane Protection in Coastal Louisiana", and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Bren Haase, CPRA, 150 Terrace Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2179, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays.

and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Landry, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 by Representative Travis Johnson

Representative Travis Johnson presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 85, which urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the feasibility of allowing a black bear hunting season, and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Mr. Bryant O. Hammett, Jr., self, 6885 Hwy. 84 W., Ferriday, LA 71334, no phone number provided, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 85.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Cormier, Fisher, Kerner, Mincey, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 88 by Representative Kerner

Representative Kerner presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 88, which memorializes Congress to compel the United States Food and Drug Administration to fulfill its duties regarding inspection and testing of imported seafood.

Representative Kerner offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 88 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 88 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Cormier, Fisher, Hilferty, Kerner, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 505 by Representative Newell

Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 505, which authorizes the exchange of certain state property in Orleans Parish, and provided a handout, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Ms. Helena Moreno, New Orleans City Council, 1300 Perdido, New Orleans, LA 70112, no phone number provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 505.

Ms. Cynthia M. Connick, City of New Orleans/No Building Corp, 1111 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-0925, spoke in support of House Bill No. 505.

Mr. Scott Whittaker, New Orleans Building Corp. & City of New Orleans, 909 Poydras St., Suite 3150, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 593-0836, spoke in support of House Bill No. 505.

Representative Hilferty offered amendments to:

- (1) Add authority for the La. Stadium and Exposition District to transfer state property in exchange for city property.
- (2) Add property descriptions for the state properties the commissioner and La. Stadium and Exposition District are authorized to transfer and the city properties they are authorized to receive in exchange.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Fisher, Hilferty, Landry, Orgeron, Riser, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

Judge Kern A. Reese, Civil District Court, 421 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA, no zip code provided, (504) 407-0310, spoke in support of House Bill No. 505.

Mr. Jay Dardenne, DOA, Claiborne Building, no address provided, 342-7000, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 505.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report House Bill No. 505 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 505 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Cormier, Fisher, Hilferty, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat 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.

Senate Bill No. 103 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Bill No. 103, which renames the Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Blake Canfield, LDNR, 617 N. Third St., 12th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-2710, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 103.

Representative Coussan 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 Coussan, Bourriaque, Butler, Cormier, Fisher, Hilferty, Kerner, Landry, Orgeron, Riser, Romero, Schamerhorn, and Wheat voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: