

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 20, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Debbie Villio, chair
Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur, vice chair
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Joy Walters
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zachary Gonzalez, attorney
Dave Storment, attorney
Ross Richard, committee administrative assistant
Andrea Jerezano, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Don-Trea' Davis, clerk
Harry Mulcahy, clerk
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 220 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 220, which creates the crime of improper storage of a firearm.

On behalf of the author, Representative Cox offered amendments to:

- (1) Clarify the elements of proposed law.
- (2) Remove, as an element of proposed law, a circumstance where the minor child causes, or attempts to cause, the injury or death of himself or another person.
- (3) Add, as an element of proposed law, a circumstance where the minor child exhibits the firearm in a public place.
- (4) Within the exceptions to the proposed law crime, clarify that the minor child's access to the firearm for the purpose of hunting, sporting activities, or any other lawful reason does not have to be supervised.
- (5) Add exceptions to the proposed law crime relative to the carrying and storage of a firearm.
- (6) Prohibits the arrest of a person for a violation of proposed law before the seventh day following the date on which the offense is alleged to have been committed under certain circumstances.

Representative Cox offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted yea.

Lt. Sheila Celious, New Orleans Police Department, 701 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 220 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Jocelyn Pinkerton, City of New Orleans Health Department, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 220.

Erin Sims, VIA Link, 5001 Hwy 190 Suite C-1, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of House Bill No. 220.

Michael Williamson, United Way Southeast Louisiana, 1 Cristal Court, Mandeville, LA 70448, spoke in support of House Bill No. 220.

Ashlyn Carraway, 33351 Bayou Sorrel Road, Plaquemine, LA 70764, spoke in support of House Bill No. 220.

Dan Zelenka, Louisiana Shooting Association, 11 Carolina Court, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 220.

Barret Kendrick, BEARCO Training, 427 N. Theard Street, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 220.

Mike Weinberger, Home Defense, 114 Dahlia Street, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 220.

Representative Bacala offered an amendment to the previously adopted amendments to clarify that the minor child who may gain access to a loaded firearm is under the age of thirteen. No vote was taken on the amendment.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to reconsider the previously adopted amendments by Representative Cox, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Fontenot, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Adams, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted nay.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report House Bill No. 220 with amendments, to which Representative Bacala objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 220 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea. Representative Bacala voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 28 in support and 22 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 220.

Senate Bill No. 101 by Senator Miguez

Senator Miguez presented Senate Bill No. 101, which provides relative to the illegal carrying of weapons.

Dan Zelenka, Louisiana Shooting Association, 11 Carolina Court, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 101.

Representative LaFleur offered amendments to reinsert vocational technical schools within the present law term "school" and clarify that the term "school" does not include a vocational-technical school that is privately-owned. Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yeas.

Everett Baudean, Louisiana Shooting Association, 704 S. Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 101.

Kelby Seanor, National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 101.

Stephanie O'Rourke, Women for Gun Rights, 4209 Highway 90 East, Des Allemands, LA 70030, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 101.

Merrilee Montgomery, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 101.

Dr. Angelle Bradford, 1822 Urquhart Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 101.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 101 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 101 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 23 in support and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 407 by Representative Ventrella

Representative Ventrella presented House Bill No. 407, which provides relative to concealed handgun permits.

Dan Zelenka, Louisiana Shooting Association, 11 Carolina Court, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of House Bill No. 407.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 407 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 407 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio,

Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley 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. 393 by Representative Bamburg

Representative Bamburg presented House Bill No. 393, which provides relative to concealed carrying of handguns.

Dan Zelenka, Louisiana Shooting Association, 11 Carolina Court, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of House Bill No. 393.

Representative LaFleur in the chair.

Kelby Seanor, National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, spoke in support of House Bill No. 393.

Barret Kendrick, BEARCO Training, 427 N. Theard Street, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of House Bill No. 393.

Mike Weinberger, Home Defense, 114 Dahlia Street, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in support of House Bill No. 393.

Everett Baudean, Louisiana Shooting Association, 704 S. Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 393.

Merrilee Montgomery, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 393.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 393 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 393 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 22 in support and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Chairwoman Villio in the chair.

Senate Bill No. 78 by Senator Myers

Senator Myers presented Senate Bill No. 78, which provides relative to drug paraphernalia.

Quinetta Womack, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 78.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 78 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 78 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 98 by Senator Myers

Senator Myers presented Senate Bill No. 98, which increases the penalties for the retail sale of nitrous oxide.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 98 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 98 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 457 by Representative Marcelle

On behalf of Representative Marcelle, Representative Walters presented House Bill No. 457, which provides relative to solitary confinement.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 457.

Representative Walters offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Clarify that the items that are required to be provided to a prisoner who is in solitary confinement are educational training or religious materials, rather than education materials.

- (3) Provide exceptions in certain circumstances where the governing authority of the penal or correctional institution, or his designee, does not have to provide a prisoner who is in solitary confinement access to educational training or religious materials.
- (4) Remove the requirement that the supervisor with the highest level of authority who is present at the institution has to provide educational materials to the prisoner within twenty-four hours of placement in solitary confinement, regardless of the actions of the prisoner, including but not limited to the failure to request such materials.
- (5) Change the term "educational materials" to "educational training" and remove the word "certification" from this term.
- (6) Remove the definition for the term "solitary confinement".

Representative Walters offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Knox, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 457 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 457 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Knox, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, 1 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 573 by Representative Jordan

On behalf of Representative Jordan, Representative Terry Landry presented House Bill No. 573, which provides for collection and reporting of data.

John West II, Urban League of Louisiana, 4640 South Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 573.

Chandra Shae Foster, Southern Poverty Law Center, 201 Saint Charles, New Orleans, LA 70170, spoke in support of House Bill No. 573.

Representative Horton offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 573. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 573 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support, 8 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice