

## **House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice**

Minutes of Meeting  
2025 Regular Session  
May 21, 2025

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 10:03 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-Trae' Davis, clerk  
Harry Mulcahy, clerk  
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms  
Angela Mcknight, sergeant at arms

### III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

#### **House Bill No. 315 by Representative Bryant**

At the request of the author, Representative Villio announced that action on House Bill No. 315, which provides relative to charitable gaming, was voluntarily deferred.

#### **Senate Bill No. 181 by Senator Bass**

Senator Bass presented Senate Bill No. 181, which provides relative to prohibitions in gaming.

Emel Collins Jr., Charitable Gaming, 925 S. Lewis St., PMB 269, New Iberia, LA 70560, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 181.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 181 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 181 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 18 in support and 5 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 22 by Representative Travis Johnson**

Representative Travis Johnson presented House Bill No. 22, which provides for a local option gaming election on the operation of video draw poker devices in Concordia Parish.

Alton Ashy, LVGA, 218 Laurel St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 22.

Dr. Will Hall, Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71309, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 22.

Representative Horton offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 22. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 22 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

#### **Senate Bill No. 58 by Senator Connick**

Senator Connick presented Senate Bill No. 58, which creates the crime of child grooming.

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

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Delete proposed law crime of child grooming and designation of this offense as a "sexual offense against a victim who is a minor".
- (3) Amend the present law (R.S. 14:81) offense of indecent behavior with juveniles to include the grooming of a child under the age of seventeen as a circumstance for which an individual can be prosecuted under present law.
- (4) Define the term "grooming".

Zach Daniels, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 58.

Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Kristine M. Russel, District Attorney 17th Judicial District, P.O. Box 431, Thibodaux, LA 70302-0431, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 58.

Meghan Garvey, LACDL, P.O. Box 83, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 58.

Representative Villio offered a motion to reconsider the previously adopted amendments. Without objection, the amendments were reconsidered by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Villio offered a motion to withdraw the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were withdrawn by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Villio offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Delete proposed law crime of child grooming and designation of this offense as a "sexual offense against a victim who is a minor".
- (3) Amend the present law (R.S. 14:81) offense of indecent behavior with juveniles to include the grooming of a child under the age of seventeen as a circumstance for which an individual can be prosecuted under present law.

- (4) Define the term "grooming".
- (5) Change the wording within the proposed law definition of grooming from "inappropriate" to "intimate".

Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Dr. Will Hall, Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71309, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 58.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 58 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 58 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted 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. 650 by Representative Jordan**

Representative Jordan presented House Bill No. 650, which increases the state tax levied on certain gaming and dedicates the proceeds of the tax for certain purposes.

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 650. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 650 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

#### **House Bill No. 542 by Representative Jackson**

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 542, which provides for the allowable amount of promotional play offered by certain gaming operators and for deductions regarding promotional play.

Wade Duty, Louisiana Casino Association, P.O. Box 3801, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in support of House Bill No. 542.

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

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Within the present law (R.S. 27:353) definition of "net slot machine proceeds", add both the promotional play wagers and the percentage cap schedule contained in proposed law.

Representative Adams 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, Boyer, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Adams offered a motion to report House Bill No. 542 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 542 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, 2 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 542.

#### **House Bill No. 147 by Representative Young**

At the request of the author, Representative Villio announced that action on House Bill No. 147, which provides for a local option gaming election on the operation of video draw poker devices in Claiborne Parish, was voluntarily deferred.

#### **House Bill No. 415 by Representative Echols**

Representative Echols presented House Bill No. 415, which authorizes enhanced promotional play allowances for gaming operators that make certain capital investments.

Ashley Menou Center, Boyd Gaming Corporation, 812 Richland Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 415.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 415 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 415 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 2 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 228 by Representative LaFleur**

Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 228, which provides for the purchase of certain lottery tickets through the internet.

Rose Hudson, Louisiana Lottery Corporation, 555 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 228.

Amy Bergette, Scientific Games, 1500 Bluegrass Lakes Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30004, spoke in support of House Bill No. 228.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 228. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 228 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 14 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 228.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio  
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice