

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 24, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry, chair of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry, chair
Representative Michael Robert "Mike" Bayham, Jr.
Representative Beth Anne Billings
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg, vice chair
Representative Steven Jackson
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Matthew Willard
Representative Rashid Armand Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Blake Byrom, legislative analyst
Natayveon Howard-Williams, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Frank Meyer IV, committee clerk
Ralph Palmer, sergeant at arms
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 33 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 33, which provides relative to the municipal civil service system for the city of Alexandria.

Mayor Jacques M. Roy, City of Alexandria, 915 Third Street, Alexandria, LA 71301, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 33.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 33 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 33 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Fontenot, Freiberg, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 241 by Representative Illg

Representative Illg presented House Bill No. 241, which provides relative to regulation by local governing authorities of ambulance services.

Jeff Drozda, Louisiana Association of Health Plans, 450 Laurel, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 241.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 241 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 241 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 241.

House Bill No. 39 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 39, which provides relative to the Houma-Terrebonne Housing Authority.

Representative Domangue offered amendments to:

1. Change the appointment process for the five-member board of commissioners by authorizing the parish president to appoint four members, subject to approval of the parish governing body, and authorizing the parish governing body to appoint one member.
2. Require that any removal of a commissioner be subject to approval by the parish governing body.

Representative Domangue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 39, to which Representative Billings objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 2 yeas and 15 nays. Representatives Marcelle and Newell voted yea. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted nay.

Representative Knox offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 39. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 39 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard 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.

House Bill No. 48 by Representative Glorioso

Representative Glorioso presented House Bill No. 48, which authorizes the city of Slidell to levy a hotel occupancy tax.

Representative Lyons offered amendments to Representative Lyons offered amendments that:

1. Reduced the maximum hotel occupancy tax rate from 5% to 2%.
2. Required that the proceeds of the tax be used to fund recreational facilities in the city of Slidell or other tourism-related initiatives set forth in the tax proposition.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 48 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 48 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 50 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 50, which provides relative to the Lake Vista Crime Prevention District in Orleans Parish.

Donna Gordon, no witness card provided, provided a handout entitled "Board of Commissioners of the Lake Vista Crime Prevention District Resolution", which is included as Exhibit A in the committee records.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 50 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 50 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 191 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 191, which provides relative to the Lakewood Crime Prevention and Improvement District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Hilferty provided a handout entitled "Lakewood Crime Prevention and Improvement District Resolution No. 2025-01", which is included as Exhibit B in the committee records.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 191 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 191 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

House Bill No. 57 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 57, which authorizes the Jefferson Davis Parish School Board to levy an additional sales and use tax.

John Hall, Jeff Davis Parish School Board, 203 South Plaquemine Street, Jennings, LA 70591, spoke in support of House Bill No. 57.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 57 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 57 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, Willard, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 40 by Representative Henry

Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 40, which provides relative to the office of parish secretary-treasurer in Acadia Parish.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 40 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 40 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Stagni, Willard, and Young 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.

House Bill No. 53 by Representative Freeman

On behalf of Representative Freeman, Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 53, which provides relative to the Upper Audubon Security District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Freeman provided a handout entitled "Upper Audubon Security District Resolution 2025-01", which is included as Exhibit C in the committee records.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 53 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 53 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, Willard, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 55 by Representative Davis

On behalf of Representative Davis, Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 55, which creates the Cross Gates Subdivision Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 55 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 55 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, Willard, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 32 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 32, which provides relative to maximum penalties for violations of ordinances in Saint Bernard Parish.

Clay Dillon, Saint Bernard Parish Government, 8201 West Judge Perez Drive, spoke in support of House Bill No. 32.

Representative Bayham offered amendments that reduced the maximum time of imprisonment for an ordinance violation in proposed law from six months to three months.

Representative Bayham offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 32 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 32 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, Willard, and Young voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, Willard, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Foy Bryan Gadberry
House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Date adopted: