

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 30, 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 9:02 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 C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Matthew Willard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Rashid Armand Young

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Frank Meyer IV, clerk
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Ralph Palmer, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 69 by Representative Jordan

Representative Jordan presented House Bill No. 69, which provides relative to the Delmont Neighborhood Crime Prevention District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 69 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 69 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, and Stagni voted yeas.

House Bill No. 649 by Representative Ventrella

Representative Ventrella presented House Bill No. 649, which provides relative to parks and recreation districts in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Ventrella provided a letter from Mayor-President Sid Edwards, expressing that he has no opposition to House Bill No. 649, labeled Exhibit A, a letter from Brandon Noel, Councilman - District 1, in support of House Bill No. 649, labeled Exhibit B, and a letter from Central Community School System in support of House Bill No. 649, labeled Exhibit C, which are included in the committee records.

Wade Evans, Mayor of the City of Central, 10652 Big Sur Drive, no city or state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 649.

Representative Domangue offered a motion to adopt the 3-minute rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Stagni, and Willard voted yeas.

Briton Myer, City of Central, 406 North 4th Street, no city or state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 649.

Bodi White, 13841 Blackwater, no city or state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 649.

Kim Fralick, City of Central council member, 10403 Joor Road, Central, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 649.

Dwayne Rogers, 16724 Apache Drive, Greenwell Springs, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 649.

Aaron McKinney, City of Central, 8296 Washington Lane, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739, spoke in support of House Bill No. 649.

Jeff Sibley, BREC Volunteer, 3938 Zeeland Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 649.

Nathaniel Klumb, 946 Parlange Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806-1847, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 649.

Michael A. Polito, 2622 Cedar Lodge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 649.

N. Peter Davis, Friends of City Park, 1519 Ingleside Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 649.

Murelle C. Harrison, Gardere Initiative, 8435 Ned Avenue Apartment A, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 649.

Darryl Hurst, address illegible, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 649.

Angelle Bradford Rosenberg, Sierra Club Delta Chapter, 1822 Urquhart Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 649.

Kaitlyn Joshua, 104921 Inniswold Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70309, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 649.

Corey K. Wilson, BREC, 6201 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 649.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 649 favorably, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 649 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Owen, and Stagni voted yea. Representatives Freiberg, Jackson, Marcelle, Moore, and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, 9 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. 649.

House Bill No. 73 by Representative Adams

Representative Adams presented House Bill No. 73, which provides relative to the members of a board of commissioners of an East Feliciana Parish gas utility district.

Marlin McGehee, East Feliciana Gas District #2, Ethel, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 73.

Representative Bayham offered a motion to report House Bill No. 73 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 73 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Stagni voted yea.

House Bill No. 92 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 92, which provides for naming the Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory after Bo Duhe'.

W. Claire Howington, 16th Judicial District Attorney Office, 300 Iberia Street, New Iberia, LA 70560, spoke in support of House Bill No. 92.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 92 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 92 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Stagni 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. 106 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 106, which provides relative to the Gentilly Development District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Bayham offered an amendment to change the name of a street within the district's present law boundaries.

Representative Bayham offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 106 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 106 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Stagni voted yea.

House Bill No. 97 by Representative Bryant

On behalf of Representative Bryant, Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 97, which creates an economic development district in the city of Jeanerette.

Kevin Hayes, Louisiana Landowners Association, 412 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 97.

Representative Gadberry offered an amendment to limit the means by which the Railroad Avenue Historic Cultural Economic District can acquire property to purchases, gifts, grants, donations, or leases.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 97 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 97 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Stagni voted yea.

House Bill No. 107 by Representative Bryant

On behalf of Representative Bryant, Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 107, which creates an economic development district in the city of St. Martinville.

Representative Gadberry offered an amendment to limit the means by which the Greater St. Martinville Economic Development District can acquire property to purchases, gifts, grants, donations, or leases.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 107 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 107 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Stagni voted yea.

House Bill No. 446 by Representative Spell

Representative Spell presented House Bill No. 446, which provides relative to the judicial review of land use.

Patrick Ottinger, Lafayette Consolidated Government, 705 West University Avenue, Lafayette, LA 70501, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 446.

Representative Gadberry offered an amendment to add a reference to acts in proposed law provisions relative to grounds for judicial review.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 446 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 446 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Moore, Newell, and Stagni 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. 86 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 86, which provides relative to membership of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

Jennifer Carwile, Together Baton Rouge Big Buddy Program, 1855 Old Carriage Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 86.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments that:

1. Authorized each mayor to designate a person to serve in his place on the commission.
2. Add four commissioners appointed by the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge, for three-year terms.
3. Increased the quorum requirement from three to five members.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Moore, Newell, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered amendments that:

1. Add voter and residency requirements for the appointed commissioners.
2. Authorized the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge, to reallocate residency requirements under certain circumstances.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Moore, Newell, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 86 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 86 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, 3 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. 86.

House Bill No. 562 by Representative Fontenot

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 562, which provides relative to costs for certain emergency services provided by fire departments and fire protection districts.

Vice Chair Freiberg in the chair.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 562.

Chair Gadberry in the chair.

Walter Beach, EMS Reform, 13335 West Mill Grove Drive, Gonzales, LA 70737, spoke in support of House Bill No. 562.

Representative Fontenot offered amendments that:

1. Authorized nonprofit corporations under contract with a fire protection district to provide emergency services to seek reimbursement pursuant to proposed law.
2. Required nonprofit corporations to submit an itemized invoice with corresponding receipts and an explanation of each service for which payment is requested.
3. Authorized nonprofit corporations to use any reasonable means to collect and enforce the collection of costs.
4. Authorized fire departments, fire protection districts, or nonprofit corporations to seek reimbursement from the automobile insurance company of the individual at fault for a motor vehicle accident for medical costs incurred as the result of a motor vehicle accident.
5. Removed provisions that authorize fire departments or fire protection districts to seek reimbursement from an emergency service provider for emergency services provided at the request of the emergency service provider.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Moore, Newell, Owen, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 562 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 562 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Knox, Moore, Newell, and Owen voted yeas.

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

House Bill No. 339 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 339, which provides relative to certain housing developments in the city of New Orleans.

Dawn Herbert, no witness card provided, provided a handout entitled "ENONAC (East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission) Resolution No. R-25-1", labeled Exhibit D in the committee records.

JP Morrell, New Orleans City Council, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 339.

Representative Newell offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 339. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 339 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Fontenot, Freiberg, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, and Stagni voted yeas.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 339.

House Bill No. 192 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 192, which provides relative to the French Quarter Management District in the city of New Orleans.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 192 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 192 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Fontenot, Freiberg, Knox, Marcelle, Newell, and Stagni voted yeas.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration and adoption of the minutes of 2024 Regular Session committee meetings held on March 28, April 5, April 11, April 18, April 25, May 1, May 9, May 16, and May 22, 2024

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the 2024 Regular Session minutes of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial, and Cultural Affairs from meetings held on March 28, April 5, April 11, April 18, April 25, May 1, May 9, May 16, and May 22, 2024. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Newell offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Marcelle, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: