

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 22, 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 9:05 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 Les Farnum
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg, vice chair
Representative Steven Jackson
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Rodney Lyons
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:

Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative C. Denise Marcelle

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the 3-minute rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Moore, Newell, and Stagni voted yea.

House Bill No. 62 by Representative Tarver

Representative Tarver presented House Bill No. 62, which authorizes parish governing authorities to create commercial property assessed capital expenditure and resilience programs.

Representative Tarver provided a letter from C-PACE Program, labeled Exhibit A, and a letter from Nuveen Green Capital, labeled Exhibit B, which are included in the committee records.

Gaby Gilbeau, Nuveen, 1300 1st Street NW, Washington, D.C., spoke in support of House Bill No. 62.

John Noble, Noble Development, 807 West Bayou Pines, Suite A, Lake Charles, LA 70601, spoke in support of House Bill No. 62.

Paul Rainwater, City of New Orleans, 5112 Cheneau Lane, Lake Charles, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 62.

John Sullivan, Enterprise Community Partners, 900 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 62.

Evan Boudreaux, Saint Mary Parish OED, 500 Main Street, no city or state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 62.

Joe Gendron, 5555 Bankers Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 62.

Steven Crispino, South Louisiana Bank, 1362 West Tunnel Boulevard, Houma, LA 70360, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 62.

David Boneno, Louisiana Bankers Association, 5555 Bankers Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 62.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 62 favorably, to which Representative Jackson objected. Representative Jackson offered a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 62. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 62 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, Willard, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 by Representative Young

Representative Young presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 17, which requests the Louisiana Housing Corporation to conduct a study on how the corporation's resources are being allocated to finance development in rural areas.

Representative Bayham offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, 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.

Senate Bill No. 63 by Senator Jenkins

Senator Jenkins presented Senate Bill No. 63, which provides for a privilege by municipalities against multifamily residential properties for unpaid sewage disposal and water system service charges or user fees.

Representative Stagni offered technical amendments.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, Willard, and Young voted yeas.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 63 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 63 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Young voted yeas.

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

Senate Bill No. 29 by Senator Hensgens

Senator Hensgens presented Senate Bill No. 29, which repeals provisions of the Vermilion Economic Development District.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 29 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 29 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Cox, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, Willard, and Young voted yeas.

House Bill No. 108 by Representative Domangue

On behalf of Representative Domangue, Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, 1051 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, presented House Bill No. 108, which provides relative to the position of museum director for the Louisiana State Museum.

Julia George, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 108.

Darryl Gissel, State Museum Board member, 666 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 108.

Representative Knox offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 108. No vote was taken.

Representative Fontenot offered a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 108 favorably, to which Representative Knox objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 108 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Owen, Stagni, and Young voted yeas. Representatives Knox, Moore, Newell, and Willard voted nay.

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

Senate Bill No. 210 by Senator Cloud

On behalf of Senator Cloud, Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, 1051 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, presented Senate Bill No. 210, which provides relative to state museums.

Julia George, Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 108.

Representative Knox offered amendments to provide certain guidelines when the state, parish, or municipality undertakes restoration, renovation, or other construction work that is greater than \$200,000 in value and is performed on the exterior of public property that is a contributing rated structure within a historic preservation district or designated as a landmark.

Representative Knox offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Bayham objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Jackson, Knox, Newell, Willard, and Young voted yeas. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Owen, and Stagni voted nay.

Representative Bayham offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 210 favorably, to which Representative Knox objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 210 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Fontenot, Freiberg, Jackson, Moore, Owen, Stagni, and Young voted yeas. Representatives Knox and Newell voted nay.

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

Senate Bill No. 54 by Senator Mizell

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 54, which provides for a limited fiscal administrator for political subdivisions.

Vice Chair Freiberg in the chair.

Larry Frieman, spoke as the designee of Louisiana Department of Justice, office of Attorney General Liz Murill, in support of Senate Bill No. 54.

Mike Waguespack, Louisiana Legislative Auditor, P.O. Box 94397, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 54.

Chair Gadberry in the chair.

Representative Carver offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 54 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 54 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 1 designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 299 by Representative Thompson

Representative Thompson presented House Bill No. 299, which increases the maximum rate of ad valorem taxes the governing authority of Morehouse Parish is authorized to levy for public cemeteries and provides for the use of the proceeds of the taxes.

Representative Thompson provided a handout entitled "Resolution No. 2025-06", which is included as Exhibit C in the committee records.

Rob Rieger, Morehouse Parish, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 299.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 299 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 299 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Freiberg, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Stagni, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 284 by Representative Bamburg

Representative Bamburg presented House Bill No. 284, which provides for the abolition of the office of police chief and police department in the village of Hall Summit.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 284 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 284 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Freiberg, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Stagni, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 285 by Representative Bamburg

Representative Bamburg presented House Bill No. 285, which provides for the abolition of the office of police chief and police department in the village of Edgefield.

Representative Billings offered a motion to report House Bill No. 285 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 285 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Freiberg, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Stagni, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 144 by Representative Taylor

Representative Taylor presented House Bill No. 144, which provides for the creation of a hospital service district.

Debbie Henten, Police Jury Association, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 144.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 144. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 144 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Freiberg, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Stagni, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 319 by Representative Orgeron

On behalf of Representative Orgeron, Archie Chaisson, Lafourche Parish president, 402 Green Street, Thibodeaux, LA, presented House Bill No. 319, which provides relative to the Atchafalaya Trace Commission and Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area.

Wilbert Carmouche, Atchafalaya Trace Commission, 8592 Highway 1, Suite 3, Mansura, LA 71350, spoke in support of House Bill No. 319.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 319 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 319 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Freiberg, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Young 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 Bill No. 611 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 611, which provides relative to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

Representative Carver offered amendments to:

1. Remove proposed law provisions that change the membership of the board and the qualifications of board members.
2. Remove proposed law provisions that remove the board's selection committee.
3. Remove proposed law provisions that make changes to the requirements for the filling of board vacancies.
4. Remove proposed law provisions that remove the mayor's ability to designate a person to attend a board meeting in his place if he is unable to attend.

Representative Carver 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, Freiberg, Jackson, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Young voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 611 with amendments. No vote was taken.

Representative Newell offered amendments to remove a section in the bill regarding the authority of the board to employ legal counsel. Representative Newell withdrew the amendment.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 611 with amendments, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 611 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Freiberg, Moore, Owen, and Stagni voted yea. Representatives Newell and Young voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 1 designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 43 by Senator McMath

On behalf of Senator McMath, Representative Carver presented Senate Bill No. 43, which provides for occupancy taxes levied by the governing authority for St. Tammany Parish.

Donna O'Daniels, St. Tammany Tourist Commission, 109 Marina Boulevard, Mandeville, LA 70471, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 43.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 43 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 43 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Freiberg, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Young voted yea.

Ashley Llewellyn, St. Tammany EDC, 1001 Highway 190 East Service Road, Suite 202, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 43.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Newell offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Bayham, Billings, Carver, Cox, Freiberg, Moore, Newell, Owen, Stagni, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: