

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 14, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Brett F. Geymann, chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Brett F. Geymann, chair
Representative Jacob Braud
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Kimberly Landry Coates
Representative Jason Brian DeWitt
Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Jacob Jules Landry
Representative Shane Mack
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron, vice chair
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Lauren Ventrella
Representative Jerome Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Timothy P. Kerner

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robin Stalder, attorney
Jennifer Winkler, legislative analyst
Brandy Ladmirault, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Quinn Williams, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 164 by Representative Billings

Representative Billings presented House Bill No. 164, which provides relative to mallard hunting licenses for hunting preserves.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to:

- (1) Change the applicable date for which the hunting preserve was licensed from prior to Jan.1, 2025 to in the 2024 license year.
- (2) Make technical changes.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Beau Blake, Island Hunting Company, 410 South Ven Avenue, Houma, LA 70361, spoke in support of House Bill No. 164.

Lee Reid, Island Hunting, 701 Poydras Street, Suite 4500, New Orleans, LA 70139, spoke in support of House Bill No. 164.

Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, 8480 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 164.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report House Bill No. 164 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 164 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 8 by Representative Bayham

Representative Domangue offered a motion to invoke the Three-Minute Rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Bayham presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 8, which memorializes Congress to compel the United States Food and Drug Administration to increase inspection and testing of imported seafood.

Elizabeth Grace Bourque, 105 Sandhurst Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 8.

Representative Domangue offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 8 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 8 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue 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. 353 by Representative Mack

Representative Geymann announced that action on House Bill No. 353, which provides relative to carbon dioxide sequestration, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 497 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 497, which provides for the Louisiana Catch and Cook Program.

Representative LaCombe offered amendments to:

- (1) Add the Office of Recreation and Tourism as a participant in the management and promotion of the program.
- (2) Remove the proposed \$20 permit fee to be used by the La. Catch and Cook Program for promotion.
- (3) Remove the requirement that charter boat captains' names and locations be provided to the Dept. of Health, office of public health, upon request.

Daryn Bovard, Louisiana Charter Boat Association, 742 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 497.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Domangue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 497 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 497 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, Orgeron, and Zeringue 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 27 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 27, which urges and requests enhancement of the state's participation in the Gulf of America Hypoxia Action Plan and Task Force.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 27 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 27 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 605 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 605, which authorizes a fee for expedited processing performed by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

Tyler Gray, LDENR, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 605.

Blake Canfield, DENR, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 605.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Bill No. 605 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 605 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

Geymann, Braud, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 605.

House Bill No. 632 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 632, which protects mineral servitude ownership in relation to carbon dioxide sequestration.

Representative Riser offered amendments to:

- (1) Recognize an exemption in present law regarding projects in Caldwell Parish.
- (2) Change the compensation required to be paid to mineral servitude owners for mineral rights taken or damages from the value of the rights to the fair market value of the rights.
- (3) Remove provision of proposed law providing for interruption of the prescription of non-use.
- (4) Make technical changes.

Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Danny Ford, Louisiana Mineral Servitude Group, 532 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 632.

Michael Brassett, Servitude Owners, 301 Main Street, no city and state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 632.

Ronnie Ainsworth, Denkmann Associates LLC, 1368 Old Fannin Road, Suite 100, Brandon, MS 39047, spoke in support of House Bill No. 632.

Nick Guillory, Bel Group, 500 Kirby Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, spoke in support of House Bill No. 632.

Robert Baumann, Hood Baumann & Associates, 616 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 632.

Mark Dore', 615 Beverly Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 632.

Marjoree McKeithen, Jones Walker, 201 St. Charles, New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 632.

Bryan Hanks, LOGA, 114 Kings Walk, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 632.

Representative Riser offered a motion to report House Bill No. 632 with amendments, to which Representative Orgeron objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 632 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Mack, McCormick, and Riser voted yea. Representatives Orgeron and Zeringue voted nay. Representative Geymann abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, 16 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. 632.

House Bill No. 165 by Representative Edmonston

Representative Edmonston presented House Bill No. 165, which removes the designated deadline the board of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District has to promulgate regulations for watershed management within the district.

Paul Sawyer, Amite River Basin Commission, 3535 South Sherwood Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in support of House Bill No. 165.

Representative Orgeron in the chair.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 165 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 165 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, LaCombe, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Zeringue 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. 172 by Representative Edmonston

Representative Edmonston presented House Bill No. 172, which extends the period for which the Comite River is exempt from certain provisions of the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act.

Paul Sawyer, Amite River Basin Commission, 3535 South Sherwood Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in support of House Bill No. 172.

Cole Garrett, LDWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 172.

Aaron Moak, 5140 Fryers Avenue, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739, spoke as the designee of EBR Parish Metro Council in support of House Bill No. 172.

Chair Geymann in the chair.

Emily Vuxon, The Nature Conservancy, 201 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70018, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 172.

Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, 8480 Bluebonnet Boulevard #F, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 172.

Representative Carrier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 172 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 172 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Ventrella voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 172.

House Bill No. 286 by Representative Henry

Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 286, which provides for the maximum civil penalty for citations issued through the expedited enforcement program.

Theresa Delafosse, LDEQ, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 286.

Representative Bryant offered a motion to report House Bill No. 286 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 286 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Dewitt, Domangue, Orgeron, Riser, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 568 by Representative Carrier

Representative Carrier presented House Bill No. 568, which establishes public safety and accountability procedures applicable to carbon capture and storage projects.

Roland Hollins, Louisiana Co2 Alliance, P.O. Box 32, Mittie, LA 70654, spoke in support of House Bill No. 568.

Blake Canfield, DENR, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 568.

Steven Giambrone, office of conservation, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 568.

Bert Callais, 363 East St. Francis, Brusly, LA 70719, spoke in support of House Bill No. 568.

Representative Dewitt offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Dewitt offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Carrier offered a motion to report House Bill No. 568 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 568 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 14 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 568.

House Bill No. 602 by Representative Jacob Landry

Representative Jacob Landry presented House Bill No. 602, which provides relative to remediation of oilfield and exploration and production sites.

Mike Moncla, LOGA, 1331 Lakeridge Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in support of House Bill No. 602.

William Kaufman, Ottinger Hebert, 1313 West Pinbrook Road, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in support of House Bill No. 602.

Representative Domangue offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Domangue offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Don Caffery, Natural Resources Management Association, 822 Harding Street, Suite 307, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in support of House Bill No. 602.

Melinda B. Brown, Delacroix Corporation/LLA, 206 Decatur Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 602.

Mike Benge, Delacroix Corporation, 37 Chateau LaTour Drive, Kenner, LA 70061, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 602.

Bill Goodell, the environment, P.O. Box 52663, Lafayette, LA 70505, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 602.

Victor Marcello, Legacy Plaintiffs, 17405 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 602.

Matthew Keating, Louisiana landowners, 517 West College Street, Lake Charles, LA 70605, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 602.

Representative Jacob Landry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 602 by substitute, to which Representative Braud objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 602 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, DeWitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Braud, Bryant, LaCombe, Orgeron, and Ventrella voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 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. 602.

House Bill No. 608 by Representative Coates

Representative Coates presented House Bill No. 608, which creates the Louisiana Atmospheric Protection Act.

Representative Dewitt offered a motion to invoke the two-minute rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Coates offered amendments to:

- (1) Change penalty from criminal to civil with a fine of \$200,000.
- (2) Transfer authority to enforce prohibition from state police and law enforcement to the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.
- (3) Require radiation evaluation report to be submitted to the Dept. of Environmental Quality rather than the local sheriff.

Representative Coates offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Raphaelle O'Neil, People of Louisiana, 3109 44th Street, Metairie, LA 70001, spoke in support of House Bill No. 608.

Katie Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke in support of House Bill No. 608.

Shannon D'Agostino, 3173 Grove Court, Mandeville, LA 70448, spoke in support of House Bill No. 608.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, P.O. Box 64952, no city and state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 608.

Bert Callais, 363 East St. Francis, no city and state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 608.

Shari Champagne, The Change/EMF Radiation Solutions, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 608.

Representative Coates offered a motion to report House Bill No. 608 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 608 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support and 6 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 608.

House Bill No. 634 by Representative Jacob Landry

Representative Geymann announced that action on House Bill No. 634, which is to provide relative to remediation of oilfield sites, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 583 by Representative Jacob Landry

Representative Jacob Landry presented House Bill No. 583, which establishes state policy regarding affordable, reliable energy and grid resilience.

Representative Dewitt offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Dewitt offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Cameron Sholty, Heartland Impact, 3949 North Wilke Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60006, spoke in support of House Bill No. 583.

Jody Montelaro, Entergy, 446 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 608.

Matt Coday, Oil & Gas Workers Association, P.O. Box 14353, Odessa, TX 79768, spoke in support of House Bill No. 583.

Lt. Col. Tommy Walles, USMC Ret., Center for Security Policy, 1901 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington D.C. 20006, spoke in support of House Bill No. 583.

J.C. Harmon, 426 Sena Drive, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in support of House Bill No. 583.

Representative Jacob Landry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 583 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 583 was reported by substitute by a vote of 13 yeas, and 0 nays.

Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 585 by Representative McCormick

Representative McCormick presented House Bill No. 585, which requires advance notice to surface and mineral owners prior to permitting or performing carbon dioxide sequestration activities.

Representative McCormick offered a motion to report House Bill No. 585 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 585 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Bob Baumann, Hood Baumann & Associates, no witness card provided, announced that all of the cards in opposition are withdrawn due to the previous amendment by Representative McCormick.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 585.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Dewitt offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Brett F. Geymann
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: