

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 20, 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 9:05 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 R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Kimberly Landry Coates
Representative Jason Brian DeWitt
Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
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 Marcus Anthony Bryant

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 106 by Senator Lambert**

Senator Lambert presented Senate Bill No. 106, which provides for frogging at night.

Cole Garrett, LDWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 106.

Representative Coates offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 106 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 106 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 23 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Bill No. 23, which provides for recording of commercial receipts for fish sold.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 23 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 23 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 94 by Senator Fesi

Senator Fesi presented Senate Bill No. 94, which provides for waters of the state.

Representative Geymann offered an amendment to clarify that the definition for "waters of the state" cannot be construed to have effect on ownership of public or private lands or water bottoms nor on perceived access to private lands or water bottoms due to a continuous surface connection.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Brennan Spoor, Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, 7543 Willow Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 94.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 94 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 94 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 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 Senate Bill No. 94.

Senate Bill No. 46 by Senator Fesi

Senator Fesi presented Senate Bill No. 46, which is to prohibit the intentional release, or dispersion of chemicals into the environment of this state with the express purpose of affecting temperature.

Representative Geymann offered an amendment to remove authorization for the department to use information and surveillance provided by the Louisiana Air National Guard.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, Kerner, LaCombe, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 46.

Eb Hoehl, 407 Robinhood Circle, Lafayette, LA 70508, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 46.

Parker Cardwell, Rainmaker, no address provided, El Segundo, CA, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 46.

Representative Coates offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 46 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 46 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, Jacob Landry, Mack, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 46.

House Resolution No. 126 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Resolution No. 126, which urges and requests the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to consider changing the daily limit and size restrictions on crappie fish in Saline-Larto Complex.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 126 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 126 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 85 by Senator Wheat

Senator Wheat presented Senate Bill No. 85, which provides for parishes to designate no-wake zones on state waterways.

Representative Coates offered amendments to:

- (1) Limit the length and width of no-wake zones established by local governing authorities.
- (2) Require no-wake zones around all docking facilities accessible by the public, rather than all docking facilities adjacent to public boat launches.
- (3) Require no-wake zones around public bridges.
- (4) Make technical changes.

Cole Garrett, LDWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 85.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 85.

Representative Coates offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, Mack, McCormick, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Coates offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 85 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 85 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, Mack, McCormick, Riser, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 31 by Senator Jenkins

Senator Jenkins presented Senate Bill No. 31, which provides for the transfer of certain state property in Caddo Parish and provided a handout, Exhibit A, Map of Survey October 14, 1982, which is included in the committee records.

Cheston Hill, Louisiana Division of Administration/Office of State Lands, no address provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 31.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 31 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 31 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 634 by Representative Jacob Landry

Representative Jacob Landry presented House Bill No. 634, which is to provide relative to remediation of oilfield sites.

Tyler Gray, Department of Energy & Natural Resources, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 634.

Blake Canfield, Department of Energy & Natural Resources, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 634.

Representative Domangue requested that action on House Bill No. 634 be voluntarily deferred for one week.

Clayton Courville, EDI Environmental, 206 Easy Street, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in support of House Bill No. 634.

Representative Jacob Landry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 634. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 634 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 5 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 353 by Representative Mack

Representative Mack presented House Bill No. 353, which provides relative to carbon dioxide sequestration.

Representative Domangue offered a motion to invoke the Three-Minute Rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Riser voted yea.

Elizabeth Soychak, Climate Reality, 10,000 Women LA, Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition, 3043 Ponce de Leon Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 353.

Robert Baumann, Hood Baumann, 616 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 353.

James Lee, LMOGA, 730 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 353.

Matt Coday, Oil & Gas Workers Association, P.O. Box 14353, Odessa, TX 79768, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 353.

Steven Giambrone, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 353.

Blake Canfield, Department of Energy & Natural Resources, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 353.

Representative Dewitt offered an amendment originated in committee to limit the scope of the bill to providing equipment to only one emergency response agency per affected parish. Representative Dewitt offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Mack offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Mack offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis

Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 353 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 353 was reported by substitute by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 14 in opposition. 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 Jacob Landry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: