

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 28, 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 9:07 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 Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Jacob Jules Landry
Representative Shane Mack
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Jerome Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron, vice chair
Representative Lauren Ventrella

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 36 by Senator Hensgens

Senator Hensgens presented Senate Bill No. 36, which provides for carbon sequestration.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove obsolete provisions of present law.
- (2) Change reference to the commissioner of conservation to the secretary of the department.
- (3) 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, Dewitt, Domangue, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 36 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 36 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 244 by Senator Hensgens

Senator Hensgens presented Senate Bill No. 244, which provides for the Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to:

- (1) Add additional member to the Natural Resources Commission.

- (2) Authorize the legislature to create advisory committees for the Natural Resources Commission.

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, Dewitt, Domangue, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Coates offered amendments to:

- (1) Exempt agricultural uses of water from new regulatory requirements.

Representative Coates 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, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, Kerner, Mack, McCormick, and Zeringue voted yea.

Tyler Gray, DENR, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 244.

Blake Canfield, DENR, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 244.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add requirements for the department's expedited permitting process.
- (3) Direct the treasurer to deposit unexpended or unobligated department funds to the Natural Resources Financial Security Fund.
- (4) Allow investment of Natural Resources Financial Security Fund monies using the Louisiana Management Pool.
- (5) Remove requirement that pipeline owners notify the department of abandonment or non-use of a pipeline.
- (6) Require the secretary and the commissioner of administration to enter a memorandum of understanding regarding payments received for the use of state lands for energy-related purposes.

(7) Repeal requirement that the department report to the legislature the amount of money in the Mineral and Energy Fund spent on legal expenses and requirements regarding derelict vessels involved in an unauthorized discharge or oil.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, Kerner, Mack, McCormick, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Dustin H. Davidson, DENR, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 244.

Commissioner Mike Strain, LDAF, Third Floor, Capitol, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 244.

Lisa G. Loup, Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association, 850 Newman Avenue, Jeff, LA 70121, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 244.

Joe Mapes, Farm Bureau, 731 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 244.

Kathy Wascon, LEAN, 1255 Aberdeen, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 244.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 244. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 244 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, Kerner, Jacob Landry, McCormick, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 13 in opposition, and 9 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 by Representative Coates

Representative Coates presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 61, which creates a special task force to study the interagency consultation process for data centers to ensure more complete natural resource planning and management.

Representative Coates offered an amendment to:

(1) Add one member of the House of Representatives and one member of the Senate to the task force as well as any additional members deemed necessary by the chairman of the task force.

Representative Coates offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, Kerner, McCormick, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, Kerner, McCormick, 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 Resolution No. 152 by Representative Kerner

Representative Kerner presented House Resolution No. 152, which urges and requests the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to study the negative health impacts of imported shrimp.

Representative Kerner offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 152 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 152 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, Kerner, McCormick, Riser, 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 Resolution No. 212 by Representative Echols

On behalf of Representative Echols, Representative Riser presented House Resolution No. 212, which urges and requests the Department of Energy and Natural Resources and the Public Service Commission to research the benefits of using nuclear energy generation within the state.

Representative Geymann offered an amendment to:

- (1) Clarify that nuclear energy has improved in both efficiency and technology within recent years.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, Kerner, LaCombe, McCormick, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Echols made closing comments on House Resolution No. 212.

Representative McCormick offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 212 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 212 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, LaCombe, McCormick, Riser, and Zeringue 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Domangue offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Braud, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, Kerner, McCormick, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: