

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
March 26, 2026

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 9:06 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry, chair
Representative Beth Anne Billings
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg, vice chair
Representative Dana Henry
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Ed Murray
Representative Paul Sawyer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Steven Jackson
Representative Joseph A. Stagni

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Blake Byrom, analyst
Jairielle Ross, committee administrative assistant
Sarah Baker, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Hannah Tassin, clerk
Jabari Williams, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 892 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 892, which creates the West End Economic Development District in the parishes of Jefferson and Orleans.

Representative Hilferty provided a handout entitled "West End Parking Lot", which is included as Exhibit A in the committee records.

Aimee McCarron, no witness card provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 892.

Joe Giarrusso, no witness card provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 892.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 892 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 892 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 681 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 681, which provides relative to the Lakeview Crime Prevention District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 681 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 681 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

House Bill No. 90 by Representative Travis Johnson

Representative Travis Johnson presented House Bill No. 90, which provides relative to the Ferriday Downtown Entertainment District.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to:

- (1) Make changes to the composition of the board.
- (2) Add provisions that provide for the initial terms of the certain board members.
- (3) Add provisions that provide that the terms of certain board members shall terminate on the effective date of the proposed law.
- (4) Add provisions that provide that certain board members shall continue to serve until the expiration of their terms.
- (5) Authorize the officers of the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Department to patrol the area included within the boundaries of the district and to make arrests in the area.

Representative Gadberry 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, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

Representative Domangue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 90 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 90 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

House Bill No. 138 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Bill No. 138, which provides relative to the Parkwood Terrace Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 138 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 138 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

House Bill No. 127 by Representative LaFleur

Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 127, which provides relative to the Victoria Farms Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 127 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 127 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 120 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 120, which creates the Real Timbers Crime Prevention and Security District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 120 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 120 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 213 by Representative Terry Landry

Representative Terry Landry presented House Bill No. 213, which provides relative to the Downtown Development District of the city of Baton Rouge. Representative Landry provided a letter of support for House Bill No. 213 from Mayor-President Emile "Sid" Edwards, City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to:

- (1) Make changes to the qualifications of board members.
- (2) Remove proposed law provisions that provide for initial terms for certain board members.
- (3) Remove proposed law provisions that provide for the termination of the terms of certain board members.
- (4) Add provisions that provide that current board members shall continue to serve until the expiration of their terms.
- (5) Add to the powers and duties of the district.

- (6) Remove proposed law provisions that authorize the district to make purchases of less than \$50,000 with the approval of the metro council.

Representative Gadberry 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, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 213 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 213 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

Witness cards are 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.

House Bill No. 247 by Representative Carrier

Representative Carrier presented House Bill No. 247, which creates the Allen Parish Economic Development District and abolishes the Allen Parish Tourist Commission.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to add the provision of tourism-related initiatives to the functions of the district.

Jacob Dillehay, Allen Parish Police Jury, 602 Court Street, Oberlin, LA 70638, spoke in support of House Bill No. 247.

Representative Gadberry 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, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

Ryan Haynie, Louisiana Travel Association, P.O. Box 44032, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 247.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 247 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 247 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

House Bill No. 122 by Representative Newell

On behalf of Representative Newell, Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 122, which provides relative to the Spring Lake Subdivision Improvement District in Orleans Parish.

Representative Gadberry offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 122. 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, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

Representative Dana Henry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 122 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 122 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

House Bill No. 139 by Representative McMakin

On behalf of Representative McMakin, Representative Sawyer presented House Bill No. 139, which creates the Parkview Oaks Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Dana Henry offered an amendment to change the author of the bill from Representative McMakin to Representative Sawyer. Representative Dana Henry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 139 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 139 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

Witness cards are submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 21 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 462 by Representative McMakin

On behalf of Representative McMakin, Representative Sawyer presented House Bill No. 462, which provides relative to the Capital Area Road and Bridge District.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 462 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 462 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

The committee recessed at 10:05 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:06 a.m.

House Bill No. 286 by Representative Berault

Representative Berault presented House Bill No. 286, which provides for the St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District.

Representative Berault provided a handout entitled "Mosquito Abatement", which is included as Exhibit C in the committee records.

Rebecca Bohm, address illegible, Mandeville, LA 70471, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 286.

Timothy Williams, 16937 River Park Drive, Covington, LA 70435, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 286.

Terri Lewis Stevens, 725 Dove Park Road, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 286.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 286 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 286 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Lyons, Moore, and Sawyer voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Adoption of minutes of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs meetings held in the 2025 Regular Session on April 24, April 30, May 15, May 22, May 29, and June 4, 2025

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to adopt the minutes. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Domangue offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Lyons, Moore, and Sawyer voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: