

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 9, 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 9:08 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 Steven Jackson
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Ed Murray
Representative Paul Sawyer
Representative Joseph A. Stagni

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Billings offered a motion to implement a 3 minute rule for member questions and witness testimony. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, and Sawyer voted yea.

House Bill No. 431 by Representative Carlson

Representative Carlson presented House Bill No. 431, which requires certain training for certain local officials.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to add Municipal Retirement Systems to the required categories of municipal governance training and continuing education to be established pursuant to proposed law.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

Mayor Ray Bourque, no address provided, Broussard, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 431.

Representative Domangue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 431 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 431 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 431.

House Bill No. 150 by Representative Bourriague

Representative Bourriague presented House Bill No. 150, which authorizes Cameron Parish to establish a local insurance program.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 150 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 150 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni 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. 822 by Representative Newell

Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 822, which provides relative to nonprofit entities that appoint members to the board of commissioners of certain economic development districts.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 822 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 822 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni 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. 204 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 204, which provides for monthly financial reports to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor from certain East Baton Rouge Parish agencies.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to remove the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging from the provisions of proposed law. Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

Michael Waguespack, Louisiana legislative auditor, 1600 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 204.

Theodore Richards, Capital Area Transit System, 2250 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 204.

Janet Simmons, Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, 6201 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 204.

Regina Barrow, District 15, 4811 Harding Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, submitted a card in opposition to House Bill No. 204 but withdrew her opposition.

Representative Knox offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 204. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 204 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 134 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 136 by Representative Illg

Representative Illg presented House Bill No. 136, which provides relative to the classified police service in the city of Harahan.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 136 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 136 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Murray, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 376 by Representative Kerner

Representative Kerner presented House Bill No. 376, which provides relative to provisional appointments in the classified service.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 376.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 376 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 376 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Lyons, Moore, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 377 by Representative Kerner

Representative Kerner presented House Bill No. 377, which provides relative to the pay range for the state examiner and deputy state examiner of the municipal fire and police civil service.

Adrienne Bordelon, state examiner Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service, 7722 Office Park Boulevard, Suite 500, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 377.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 377 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 377 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Moore, Sawyer, and Stagni 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. 450 by Representative Kerner

Representative Kerner presented House Bill No. 450, which provides relative to points awarded to veterans in competitive fire and police civil service employment.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to change military service requirements from during times of war for 180 days or more to during times of war or for 180 days or more. Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 450.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 450 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 450 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 273 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 273, which repeals the authority of certain parishes to distribute sales and use tax revenue collected on admission tickets to certain events.

B. Trey Godfrey, The Partnership, 564 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 273.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 273 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 273 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Carver, Cox, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yeas.

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. 1068 by Representative Villio

On behalf of Representative Villio, Representative Cox presented House Bill No. 1068, which provides relative to contracts for garbage collection in parishes and municipalities.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove the requirement that parish and municipal governing authorities issue a request for proposals or advertise for bids before granting exclusive contracts.
- (2) Make technical changes.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yeas.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1068 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1068 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni 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.

House Bill No. 864 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 864, which establishes a fire limit to prohibit the storage of flammable materials above ground beneath certain structures owned and operated by the state or municipality.

Mayor Helena Moreno, city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 864.

Jeanie Donovan, New Orleans Department of Health and Human Services, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 864.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 864 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 864 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 444 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 444, which provides relative to the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to remove the Louisiana Senate member from District No. 14 and replace him with the Louisiana Senate member from District No. 15. Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 444 with amendments, to which Representative Freiberg objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 444 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, and Stagni voted yea. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, and Sawyer voted nay.

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. 867 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 867, which provides for an appointed chief of police in the town of Fordoche.

Kevin Hayes, Chiefs of Police, 10751 Bird Song, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 867.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 867 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 867 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yeas.

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

House Bill No. 664 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 664, which provides relative to maximum penalties imposed for violations of parish ordinances.

Glenn Ansardi, Louisiana City Judges Association, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 664.

Debbie Henton, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North Seventh Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 664.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 664 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 664 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 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 Stagni offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Farnum, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yeas.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: