

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 15, 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 5:13 p.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 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:

Representative Les Farnum

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Jairielle Ross, committee administrative assistant
Sarah Baker, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Jabari Williams, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 87 by Representative Mack

Representative Mack presented House Bill No. 87, which provides relative to the board of commissioners of Livingston Parish Gas Utility District No. 1.

Representative Domangue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 87 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 87 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

House Bill No. 481 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 481, which provides for the cost of publishing official proceedings and public notices.

Sam Hanna, Louisiana Press Association, 502 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 481.

McHugh David, Louisiana Press Association, 502 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 481.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North Seventh Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 481.

Representative Sawyer offered a motion to report House Bill No. 481 favorably, to which Representative Billings objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 481 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea. Representatives Billings, Carver, Knox, Lyons, and Marcelle voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 9 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 573 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 573, which provides relative to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

Representative Hilferty provided a handout entitled "RESOLUTION NO. R-26-146", which is included as Exhibit A in committee records.

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

Mayor Helena Moreno, city of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 573.

Dr. Tracie L. Washington, Louisiana Justice Institute, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 573.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 573 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 573 was reported by substitute by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 162 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 162, which provides relative to the Jefferson Place/Bocage Crime Prevention and Improvement District.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 162 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 162 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

House Bill No. 368 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 368, which provides relative to historic preservation districts and landmarks commissions in the city of New Orleans.

Bryan Block, Historic District Landmarks Commission, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 368.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 368 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 368 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: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 441 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 441, which provides relative to employees of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board.

Paul Rainwater, city of New Orleans, 5117 Cheneau Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 441.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 441 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 441 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, 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. 257 by Representative Ventrella

Representative Ventrella presented House Bill No. 257, which provides relative to the powers and duties of the police chief of the city of Central.

Representative Ventrella provided a handout entitled "RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09", which is included as Exhibit B in the committee records.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to:

- (1) Require the police chief to consult with the city attorney prior to taking any action to discipline or dismiss police personnel.
- (2) Provide that proposed law shall become effective on January 1, 2027.

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, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

Roger Corcoran, Central Police Department, 13505 Hooper Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, spoke in support of House Bill No. 257.

Fabian Blanche, Louisiana Chief's Association, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 257.

Representative Sawyer offered a motion to report House Bill No. 257 with amendments, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, and Sawyer voted yea. Representatives Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, and Stagni voted nay.

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. 741 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 741, which provides relative to housing for victims of human trafficking.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to:

- (1) Add a qualified third party to the list of options that a local housing authority may utilize to verify that an applicant is a human trafficking survivor.
- (2) Add requirements that any address attached to a voucher be withheld from public

view without informed consent by the person about whom information is sought or as directed by court order.

- (3) Add restrictions that prevent certain individuals from giving consent for release of address information.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Domangue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 741 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 741 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 466 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 466, which authorizes rebates of ad valorem taxes in West Feliciana Parish under certain conditions.

Representative Jackson offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove the provisions that authorize a tax recipient body in West Feliciana Parish that meets certain specified requirements to implement a rebate program through which the body may refund certain amounts of ad valorem taxes paid by property owners.
- (2) Add provisions that authorize the West Feliciana Government, West Feliciana School Parish Board, and West Feliciana Parish Law Enforcement District to implement a rebate program through which taxpayers may be awarded a rebate of certain amounts of ad valorem taxes paid by property owners.
- (3) Add provisions that provide that the rebate may only be granted in the form of a credit against a subsequent year's ad valorem tax liability and only against taxes levied by the West Feliciana Government, West Feliciana Parish School Board, and

West Feliciana Parish Law Enforcement District.

- (4) Add a requirement that the president of the West Feliciana Government, president of the West Feliciana Parish School Board, and the sheriff of West Feliciana Parish meet at a specified place and on a specified date to determine the rebate to be issued.
- (5) Add provisions that provide that the percentage rebate shall only become effective upon the unanimous vote of the president of the West Feliciana Government, the president of the West Feliciana Parish School Board, and the sheriff of West Feliciana Parish.
- (6) Add a requirement that the sheriff of West Feliciana Parish apply the percentage rebate on the final ad valorem tax bill for each property.

Representative Jackson 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, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yeas.

Representative Domangue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 466 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 466 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Lyons, Moore, 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.

House Bill No. 115 by Representative Bamburg

Representative Bamburg presented House Bill No. 115, which provides for the abolition of the office of police chief and the police department in the village of Edgefield.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 115 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 115 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Lyons, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yeas.

House Bill No. 433 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 433, which provides relative to the Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 433 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 433 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Domangue, 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 support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 239 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 239, which provides relative to the East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 239. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 239 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, Murray, Sawyer, and Stagni voted yeas.

House Bill No. 212 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 212, which creates the Delmont Economic Development District in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 212. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 212 was voluntarily deferred 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 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. 472 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 472, which authorizes municipalities to implement rent stabilization.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 472 favorably.

Tammy Sponge, The Apartment Association of Louisiana, 3017 Harvard Avenue, Suite 201, Metairie, LA 70006, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 472.

Luke Bullock, Louisiana Realtors, 821 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 472.

Representative Lyons withdrew his motion to report House Bill No. 472 favorably.

Representative Knox offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 472. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 472 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: 5 in support, and 29 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 447 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 447, which creates the Avondale and Waggaman Economic Development District in Jefferson Parish.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 447 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 447 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, and Murray voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gadberry, Billings, Carver, Cox, Domangue, Freiberg, Dana Henry, Jackson, Knox, Lyons, Marcelle, Moore, and Murray voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: