

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
May 27, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen C. Dwight, chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stephen C. Dwight, chairman
Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Royce Duplessis, vice chairman
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Charles Alexander Henry
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Tanner D. Magee

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst
Lorrienne Lucas, attorney
Rosalie Ammersbach, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 351 by Senator Cathey**

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 351, which allows each recognized political party to determine the composition of its state central committee.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 351 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 351 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

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

Senate Bill No. 238 by Senator Allain

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 238, which provides for repayment of personal contributions or loans.

Representative Dwight offered amendments to limit funds which may be used for purposes of proposed law to those funds received in connection with an election in which the candidate qualified for public office. Representative Dwight offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 238 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 238 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

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. 75 by Senator Mizell

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 75, which provides relative to addresses to where absentee by mail ballots are sent.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 75.

Lani Durio, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 75.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 75 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 75 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

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

Senate Bill No. 397 by Senator Bernard

Senator Bernard presented Senate Bill No. 397, which provides relative to counting absentee and early voting ballots.

Representative Dwight offered amendments to:

1. Clarify the type of elections to which the limitations on compensation of members of parish boards of election supervisors are applicable.
2. Make technical changes.

Representative Dwight offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 397 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 397 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

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

Senate Bill No. 422 by Senator Bernard

Senator Bernard presented Senate Bill No. 422, which provides for the reinspection of voting machines and recounting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 422 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 422 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

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

Senate Bill No. 80 by Senator Carter

Senator Carter presented Senate Bill No. 80, which exempts interior blueprints and floor plans of public school buildings and facilities from the definition of "public records".

Representative Newell offered amendments to remove other renderings of school facilities from the proposed law exemption. Representative Newell offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 80 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 80 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

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

Senate Bill No. 42 by Senator White

On behalf of Senator White, R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, presented Senate Bill No. 42, which provides that domicile of the Department of State is in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 42 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 42 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

Senate Bill No. 183 by Senator Harris

On behalf of Senator Harris, R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, presented Senate Bill No. 183, which authorizes clerks of court to have law enforcement officers at polling places on election day to enforce law and authorizes law enforcement officers to enter voting location in an emergency.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 183 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 183 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

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

Senate Bill No. 218 by Senator Cloud

On behalf of Senator Cloud, Representative Horton presented Senate Bill No. 218, which requires that completion of qualifying forms for elected office shall include submission of valid identification.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 218.

Representative Horton offered amendments to:

1. Limit the requirement to retain a redacted proof of identity to cases where the candidate does not qualify in person.
2. Add a provision of proposed law regarding a difference in the addresses on the candidate's proof of identity and his voter registration.
3. Add a provision for a special effective date.

Representative Horton offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 218 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 218 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

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

The committee recessed at 9:17 a.m. The committee reconvened at 9:44 a.m.

Senate Bill No. 191 by Senator White

Senator White presented Senate Bill No. 191, which provides relative to confidentiality of certain information contained in contracts with the Department of Economic Development.

Adam Knapp, Baton Rouge Area Chamber, 564 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 278-3708, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 191.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, 935 Gravier Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 331-0888, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 191.

Robert Travis Scott, Public Affairs Research Council, 451 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 926-8414, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 191.

Representative Dwight offered amendments to remove several proposed exceptions from the bill and to make technical changes. Representative Dwight offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 191 with amendments, to which Representative Henry objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas, 8 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Farnum, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, and Newell voted nay. Representative Dwight abstained.

Representative Henry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 191. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 191 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 466 by Senator Hewitt

On behalf of Senator Hewitt, Representative Dwight presented Senate Bill No. 466, which provides for teleconferencing of public bodies under certain circumstances.

Representative Dwight offered amendments to change the terminology in the definition of "teleconference" from "audio and visual signal" to "audio or audiovisual signal". Representative Dwight offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Henry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

Representative Dwight offered amendments to add a provision, effective until August 1, 2022, to authorize the State Bond Commission to conduct one teleconference meeting per quarter subject to specified conditions.

John Schroder, Louisiana state treasurer, no witness card submitted, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 466.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, no witness card submitted, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 466.

Representative Dwight offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

Representative Dwight offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 466 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 466 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Jenkins, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

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.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55 by Senator Hewitt

On behalf of Senator Hewitt, Representative Dwight presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55, which establishes the Closed Party Primary Task Force to study the necessary steps to develop a closed party primary election system applicable at the federal, state, and local levels beginning with the 2022 congressional elections.

Representative Dwight offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Jenkins, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 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 Henry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Jenkins, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above the printed name.

Vice Chairman Royce Duplessis
House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Date adopted: October 7, 2020